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 Download your registration form or purchase tickets online at [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org)



From here, to fraternity: three sets of Lamorinda twins. Standing, from left: Kyle and Jarett Visher; seated: Jake and Nick Morosini, Cailey and Shannon McVay. Photo Ohlen Alexander

## Seeing Double: Nothing Says Togetherness Like Twins

By Cathy Dausman

**C**ongratulations, new mother – it’s a boy... and *another* boy! Or a daughter ... and a second daughter ... or *one of each!* Twin births can rock a new parent’s world – and they’re nothing new in Lamorinda.

Nancy Brown said she was surrounded by twins in middle school. “Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School had 13 sets of twins” in the mid 1970s, she said. “I was friends with several sets and I remember some of the identical twins switching classes with each other once in a while. It always caught the teachers off guard and gave us a chuckle!”

Robin Bradley, whose 17-year-old fraternal twin sons Cole and Ryan Sitar attend Miramonte High School, remembers Orinda Intermediate School published a “twin yearbook” about the time they attended. Twins run in Bradley’s family, and she said having twins is “a great social experience,” but it makes child rearing much harder until they’re 2, noting her boys were “very active sleepers” for the first six months.

Bradley advises reaching out early for extra help. She joined the Mothers of Twins (now Mothers of Multiples) and enlisted extra help from relatives, setting up a schedule so that she was fully covered the first three weeks of Cole and Ryan’s lives. The good and bad thing about having twins, Bradley said, is that twins both learn and do things at the same time. It’s a “go for broke” attitude of parenting, she said.

Before ultrasounds became routine, Kathy Ferber of Moraga just thought she carried a very large baby. “The doctor could only hear one heartbeat,” she said. But Ferber found out five days before they were born when a savvy nurse practitioner felt two heads, and sent the mother off for X-rays.

... continued on page A14

**Quote of the Week:**

*“Teaching is food for the soul and the intellect.”* Read The Complete Package - page B2.

Advertising

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## How do Lamorinda Cities Deal with Water Cutbacks?

By Cathy Tyson

**W**hile household customers in the East Bay Municipal Utility District’s service area have been asked to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 10 percent, that request applies to municipalities as well. Staffers in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are well aware of the situation and are already doing their respective parts to wisely manage this precious resource.

Dismal precipitation this past winter and the continued drought that California is facing has spurred EBMUD’s board of directors to purchase approximately 16,000 acre feet of water from the Sacramento River to be deposited into East Bay reservoirs; in addition, they reiterated their earlier request for all customers to cut water use by 10 percent.

The Sacramento River water travels about 130 miles to San Pablo Creek where it will flow to the San Pablo Reservoir, or to Moraga Creek where it will flow to the Upper San Leandro Reservoir. The 16,000 acre-feet of water translate to about 5.2 billion gallons or enough to fill the Oakland Coliseum 24 times. While this water improves reliability to EBMUD’s 1.3 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, oddly none of it will flow to Lamorinda customers; instead going to a dozen other cities including Crockett, Rodeo, Hercules, Pinole and beyond.

At a media event to highlight the increased water supply, EBMUD general manager Alexander Coate thanked customers for their continued water vigilance. How are Lamorinda’s three municipalities handling the request?

... continued on page A15



Water traveling 130 miles from the Sacramento River flows through these pipes into the San Pablo Creek at the EBMUD facility off of Manzanita Drive in Orinda. Photo Ohlen Alexander

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

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**Life in Lamorinda B1-B12**

### Bringing Out the Book

Local writing groups offer help and good company - page B1.



**Sports C1-C3**

### SMC Softball Steps it Up

Gaels look to make a run at the WCC title - page C2.



**Our Homes D1-D20**

### Juniors Kitchen Tour

Enjoy a sneak peek at two of the spectacular kitchens on the May 17 tour - page D1.





# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, May 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, May 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 284-1968

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room at 1212  
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley Library  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

**Send a letter to the editor:**  
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

STILL #1 FOR A REASON



2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

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## No More Food at Library

By Cathy Tyson



After July 1 say no to the taco, or eat it outside the library; yes to the water.  
Photo Cathy Tyson

Say goodbye to taco Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, and Thursdays and so on, inside the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. When the library opened its doors five years ago, the

thought was to invite and encourage patrons to comfortably enjoy the "community living room." With the heaviest users of the facility being hungry middle school kids, there have been numerous

problems and complaints with the food-friendly setup since the beginning. Turns out greasy sticky fingers on the many computer keyboards is a problem, along with greasy tables, finger prints on books, funky smells and more.

After hearing a litany of grievances, librarian Vickie Sciacca and Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation president Beth Needel suggested to the City Council that a new policy should be put in place. After some discussion, council members unanimously agreed. Starting July 1 food will be restricted and only beverage containers with a lid and water will be allowed. Patrons are welcome to eat in the many public outdoor spaces of the library – there are lots of tables and chairs along the First Street side of the building and near the entry plaza. The charming Bookmark Café will still be open for purchases of snacks, sandwiches and drinks.

The library has been a victim of its own success with a parade of kids most every afternoon that appear to come hungry. It's not easy to study for midterms if a fellow table-mate is chomping on French

fries or crunching on nachos. Even though food isn't allowed at the many computers, library staff has to constantly monitor the situation.

Food will still be allowed in the Community Hall, which is used for a multitude of functions and events along with the Arts and Science Discovery Center that also hosts events. After hours festivities in the main library will continue to be allowed.

The Bookmark Café, located near the library entrance will remain open for business, but also on the city council's agenda was a change to their lease. As of July 1, the lease will be assigned to a new operator, Elham Rostami. There are 14 months left of the original five year lease, a long enough time to reconsider rent and evaluate the situation when the lease expires. Mayor Don Tatzin made a special point of thanking current operators Mona Amanat and Soraya Radmanesh, "for their years of hard work and always being cheerful and welcoming."

## Green Award Winners Recognized



Green Award winners, from left: Tina Goodfriend, Scott Thomsen, Erika Pringsheim-Moore, Ahmed Shibli, Maria Gastelumendi, Philip Hunsucker, Marie Montoya, Sharon Lingane and Mayor Don Tatzin.  
Photo Cathy Tyson

Recognizing local residents and businesses that have made outstanding efforts that contribute to a more sustainable community, the 2013 Awards of Environmental Excellence, also

known as the Green Awards, were selected by Lafayette's Environmental Task Force and announced at a recent city council meeting.

Tina Goodfriend wins the res-

ident award for serving as a good friend to the earth. She chaired the Lafayette Earth Day Festival and is Volunteer Director for Sustainable Lafayette.

... continued on next page



### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, April 20-26

- Auto Burglary**  
3500 block Brook St  
Acalanes High School (2)
- Residential Burglary**  
3600 block Brook St  
3100 block Plymouth Rd
- Death, non-criminal**  
800 block Mt View Dr
- Disturbing the Peace**  
1st St/Mt Diablo Bl
- DUI Misdemeanor**  
Acalanes Rd/Mt Diablo Bl
- Fireworks**  
Thompson Rd/Mt Diablo Bl
- Hit & Run**  
Moraga Rd/Wilkinson Ln
- Juvenile Disturbance**  
Dewing Av/Walnut St  
Topper Ct/School St
- Loud Party/Music**  
Burton Valley Elementary (2)  
700 block Solana Dr

- 3500 block Via Los Colorados  
Los Palos/Glenside Dr
- Panhandling**  
Post Office (2)
- Petty Theft**  
Safeway  
3200 block Park Ln  
Library
- Reckless Driving**  
(location n/a)  
Reliez Station Rd/Olympic Bl
- Suspicious**
- Circumstances** 15
- Vehicle** 9
- Subject** 9
- Terrorist Threats**  
3400 block Solana Ct
- Vandalism**  
Lafayette Police Dept
- Vehicle Theft**  
1400 block Pleasant Hill Rd

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# Mayor Hosts Housing Element Workshop

By Cathy Tyson

At the first of three special workshops to update the community on the current Housing Element, city leaders started from the beginning with a primer of what a Housing Element is, and how it works in Lafayette. De-mystifying this state-mandated requirement isn't easy.

Mayor Don Tatzin, using a power point presentation, along with a panel to answer questions made up of city planners, Councilmember Mike Anderson, and Diana Elrod the city's housing consultant, started with the basics.

"Every jurisdiction in California is required by law to have a General Plan, and every General Plan must contain several elements, including the Housing Element," explained Tatzin. The current Housing Element covers 2007 to 2014; the updated element will cover the period from 2014 to 2022.

The document, which requires approval from the state's Department of Housing and Community Development, contains information on the housing needs of the community, with some of the needs determined by the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation or RHNA.

For the current 2007-14 cycle, Lafayette's RHNA total is 361 units. For the upcoming cycle that number is 400 units. Those units are broken down into categories that include very low, low, moderate and above moderate income classifications. What

many in the audience seemed perplexed by, was the requirement that the city simply provides the potential for those units to be built, and can't place any barriers in the way. "The city is only required to show that there is enough land zoned at appropriate densities to accommodate this need, should a developer want to build these units," stated a handout available at the meeting and also available on the city's website.

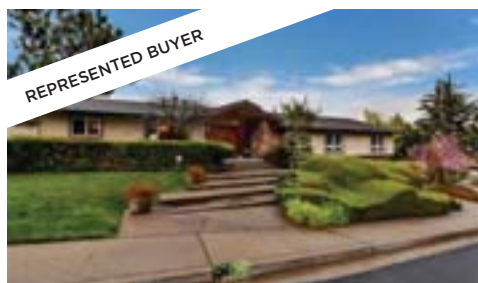
Streamline review, density bonus pros and cons and understanding default densities were also discussed. Questions from the audience covered a range of topics including the authority of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and services like schools and emergency services that would be needed if more housing units were built.

Further Housing Element workshops are scheduled – the next is on Tuesday, May 13 at the Lafayette Elementary School Gymnasium and will focus on housing sites inventory, the density bonus ordinance and density adjustments. A final workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 28 at the Lafayette Methodist Church, Fireside Room to discuss policies and programs including identifying governmental constraints. For more information, go to the city website at www.love-lafayette.org, click on Hot Topics, then go to the Housing Element Update. The Frequently Asked Questions link is full of details on the subject.



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## No Survey

On the agenda of the April 28 Lafayette City Council meeting was a report looking at options to have a potential survey that would analyze voter priorities. Three areas were investigated: conducting a telephone survey, employing a web-based outreach type of survey offered by Lafayette's information technology vendor Granicus, and considering an online public response tool. After some discussion, council members decided the timing was not fantastic for any of the options, and perhaps more importantly as the budget picture is becoming more finalized, it potentially isn't as bleak as originally thought. Bottom line according to Mayor Don Tatzin: "We will not conduct a survey at this time."  
C. Tyson

## Green Award Winners Recognized

... continued from page A2

Scott Thomsen took the Green Building Award for connecting architecture to the environment via his work at Ward-Young Architecture and Planning for designing the Fresh Connection building that includes numerous elements of sustainable design.

Erika Pringsheim-Moore won the Green Award for schools, for teaching the next generation to value our resources. She's the leader of the Lafayette School District Green Team and has focused her energy on a demonstration garden, campus composting and partnered with the district and PG&E to swap out old gym lights, saving \$30,000 annually.

Ahmed Shibli and Maria Gastelumendi, owners of the Rising Loafer Café, won for serving as a model green restaurant in Lafayette. They feature organic and locally grown ingredients, some coming from their own garden, bio degradable to-go containers and environmentally

friendly cleaning products; the tables in the café are made from re-purposed doors.

For local environmental law firm Hunsucker Goodstein PC, Philip Hunsucker and Marie Montoya were recognized for their commitment to protecting the environment. They have reduced waste, hardly use any paper in the office (even then its recycled paper that is printed on both sides) and organize an annual clean up of the Lafayette Reservoir.

Sharon Lingane, manager of The Friends Corner Bookshop, accepted the Green Award for her community organization for reducing, re-using, and recycling. Everything in the store is donated, from the roughly 25,000 donated books, CDs, puzzles, notepads and shopping bags to the labor of 135 volunteer staffers. The profits benefit everyone in the community by going to support library services.

C. Tyson



## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 28, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, May 12, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 888-7022

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

#### School Board Meeting

##### Moraga School District

Tuesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

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please...



## Moraga Police Department

Alleged child endangerment, 4/23/14 Elementary school officials notified Moraga police that a parent arrived at school to pick up children while exhibiting signs of intoxication. The observations were reported to Child Protective Services. The parent was contacted at home and provided a statement, although it was roughly two hours since the incident occurred. The parent declined to cooperate in quantifying a blood alcohol level.

Porch package pilfered, 4/25/14 A Paseo Grande resident reported a package being stolen off the porch. Apparently two men pulled up in a gray car, took the package and drove off toward Moraga Road. The value of the contents of the box was approximately \$30. No suspects or leads at this time.

Food taken, 5/21/14 Two males in a red truck took property from the parking lot of a local Asian restaurant, according to video surveillance footage. The subject had stolen items from the same area approximately one month prior, after being denied permission to take the items by the restaurant owner. Unfortunately the license plate was unreadable, but the video documents the theft. Stolen items exceed \$950.

Student suicidal statements, 4/23/14 A 19-year-old Saint Mary's College student was sending suicide statements via text message to her boyfriend.

Police met her at her dorm room and determined that she was a danger to herself and transported her to the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez for a mental health evaluation.

Purse stolen, 4/28/14 It was the middle of the afternoon when police were dispatched to a major retailer in the Rheem Shopping Center. An 80-year-old woman had been targeted and was intentionally distracted by a male subject in his mid-20s, while his accomplice snatched the victim's purse from her shopping cart. The elderly woman notified her banks and credit card companies, but she was advised that the cards had been used in Walnut Creek shortly after the theft. The case is under investigation.

Driving on a suspended license, 4/26/14 A Toyota Camry was pulled over on Canyon Road at midnight for erratic driving. The 24-year-old driver was arrested for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license, no proof of insurance, open container of alcohol and a probation violation.

**In addition, the following crimes were reported in Moraga April 23-29:**

**Medical Assist** – Oxford Dr  
**Battery**, by non-cohabitating person – Camino Pablo  
**Civil Dispute** – Rheem Blvd  
**Found Property** – St. Mary's Rd  
**False Alarm** – Rheem Blvd  
**Danger to Self** – Camino Pablo

## The Bernie & Ryerson Team



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## Confusion over Hetfield Appeal

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Town Council members Dave Trotter and Mike Metcalf recently appealed a Planning Commission decision to approve the general plan for the Hetfield Estates – seven homes to be built on a 58-acre open space parcel alongside a new road extending out from Hetfield Place. The Town Council held a lengthy discussion of the appeal at its April 23 meeting.

Planning commissioners determined in March that a dirt Emergency Vehicle Access road that would connect the new development to the back of Sanders Ranch was not desirable and opted instead for a pedestrian trail – this formed the basis for the appeal. Metcalf also indicated a concern over the limited amount of additional parking spaces.

In the end, the Town Council reduced, rather than increased, the total

number of parking spaces and Sanders Ranch residents were given 10 years to decide if they want an EVA.

Confusion about what type of vehicle could navigate the proposed EVA and how much it would cost, and who would pay for it, was evident at the council meeting. Moraga-Orinda Fire District fire marshal Kathy Leonard explained that an ambulance would not use an emergency route to reach Sanders Ranch unless it was paved and noted that a dirt road would accommodate only four-wheel drive vehicles, which could carry emergency response personnel and apparatus but would not be able to take someone out of the property. Leonard added that because Sanders Ranch is not a high fire danger zone the real issue is the medical response time.

John Wyro, the developer of the Hetfield Estates property, explained that the condition of approval never required more than building a dirt road that would go from the development to the property limit at the back of Sanders Ranch. The cost to construct a paved road would fall on the owners of the 273 Sanders Ranch homes, an expense that some Sanders Ranch residents who attended the meeting found useless. "No way for anything paved," said Brent Mayer. Stan Roth, who sits on the board of the Sanders Ranch Homeowners Association, nuanced, "We just want to preserve our ability, in the future, to do what is best for (Sanders Ranch)."

The Town Council agreed that the developer should not construct the dirt EVA immediately but that he will set aside funds for 10 years to allow ample time for Sanders Ranch homeowners

to gather information and reach a decision as to whether or not they want an emergency access route built.

To mitigate a potential attractive nuisance – a hangout spot for teenagers that might be created by a four-car parking area at the end of the new road – the Town Council accepted Wyro's suggestion that the number of parking spaces at the road's end be reduced to three and moved closer to the homes, leaving the development with a total of six parking spots.

As the clock struck 11 p.m., council members had not reached a decision regarding what will happen to the developer's money if Sanders Ranch residents decide that they don't want to build an EVA. Because of the late hour and other topics to discuss, the final decision was postponed until the Town Council's May 24 meeting.

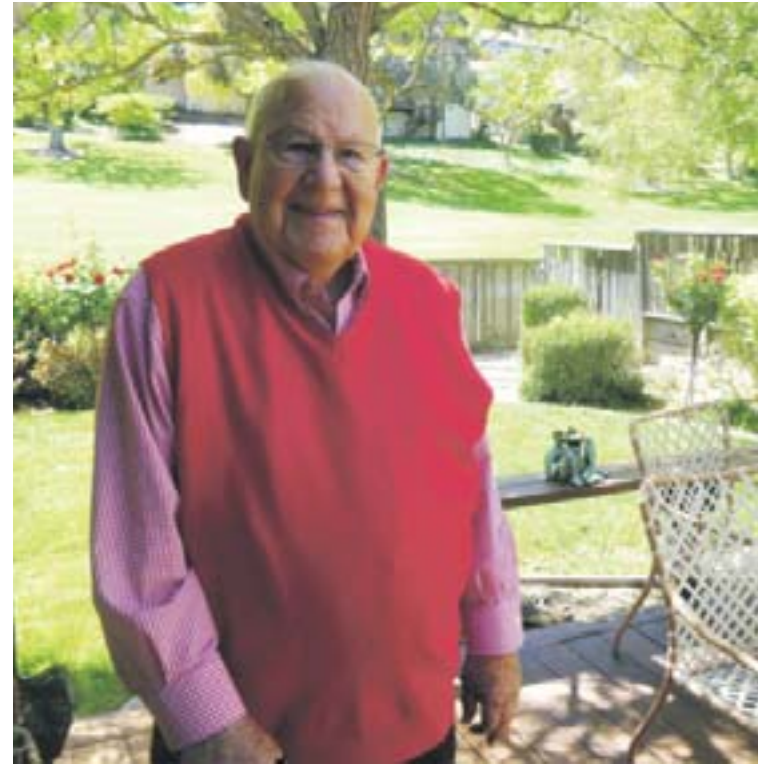
## Cliff Dochterman – Citizen of the World – Moraga Citizen of the Year

By Sophie Braccini

Cliff Dochterman defines citizens, as opposed to residents, as people who take responsibility for themselves and for their community. The former university administrator lives by his principles, so it is only fitting that his town has recognized him as the Moraga Citizen of the Year for 2014.

It is impossible to talk about Dochterman without mentioning Rotary's fight to end polio. As president of Rotary International in 1992-93, as co-chairman of the committees that chose the project, as an organizer and as a participant in the immunization campaigns, Dochterman has been a key player in the global effort. When Rotary first undertook this humanitarian mission in 1979 there were 350,000 cases of polio in the world; 150 countries had new cases every year. Thirty years later there were about 1,000 cases and today only three endemic countries remain. This effort epitomizes Dochterman's life from the time he joined the Boy Scouts, at age 12, to today.

Dochterman was raised by a modest family during the Great Depression; he remembers that everyone was poor back then in Findlay, Ohio. His mother was a schoolteacher, his grandfather a Methodist minister. Findlay was the town of the Marathon Oil Corporation. "Every year, the company had a giving campaign, and one year, I must have been 6 years old, they asked my mother if they could give my brother and I \$5 to join the YMCA," recalls Dochter-



Cliff Dochterman in his home at the Moraga Country Club

Photo Sophie Braccini

man. "I used to wonder how somebody could be so rich that they would give \$5 for the Y to someone they didn't know. And I often think back that this was my first idea of what civic duty, and responsibility to others, is all about."

Responsibility is a key word to Dochterman. "It is a life changing experience to know that you can do something for somebody you don't know," he says. "Individuals can make a difference; you don't have to go to the middle of Africa."

... continued on page A15

## Community Workshop: Town of Moraga Housing Element Update

Thursday, May 22, 7:00 to 9:00pm,

Hacienda de las Flores, La Sala Building, 2100 Donald Drive.

The Town of Moraga is updating its current Housing Element for the 2015-2013 planning cycle as required by state law. The workshop will provide an overview of the Housing Element Update process and solicit input on how the Town and community can address housing challenges facing Moraga. Participants will be asked to share their thoughts on the following questions:

- What are the major housing issues that should be addressed in the Housing Element?
- What are the barriers to affordable housing in Moraga?
- What can be done to address these issues and barriers?

Your feedback will be incorporated into a draft housing element update scheduled for hearings before the Planning Commission and Town Council.

For more information contact

Brian Horn, Associate Planner at 925-888-7044, bhorn@moraga.ca.us



LAMORINDA HEALTH EXPO – MAY 16  
COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE – MAY 17  
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# Moraga's 2014 Pavement Project

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga's Public Works team, from left, back to front: Ruben Ochoa, Lawrence Tam, Dan Bernie, Edric Kwan, Travis McCord, Laurie Succang, Kyle Salvin, Jose Limon; not pictured: Steve Reichold. Photo Sophie Braccini

More great roads in Moraga – that is the town's plan for the summer. Last year, after passing a 1 percent sales tax, the town spent \$2.8 million to refinish half of its residential and neighborhood collector streets. As a result, the pavement index of the town improved from 49 to 58 and the League of California Cities selected Moraga's 2013 Pavement Repair Project as a top 20 finalist in its Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards Program.

This year's road campaign will start in August and tackle roads that

are in far worse condition than those that were fixed last year – consequently it will cost \$3.3 million to fix about 10 percent of the residential and 20 percent of the neighborhood collector streets.

"The progress we have achieved, going from 49 to 58 for our pavement index, is quite significant," says Public Works director Edric Kwan. "The plan is that once the 3-year pavement plan is finished, Moraga's global average index over the next 10 years will be 61, with a peak of 67 in 2015." That will raise Moraga from the

"poor" category, at the very bottom of the Bay Area barrel, to the "fair" group that includes San Jose, Berkeley and Mill Valley.

Last year the town addressed streets that were in fair condition to make sure they stay in that category. This year the plan is to address some of the "at risk" neighborhood streets, about 23 segments, with a more extensive treatment. The final list of streets has not been released yet; it will include roads such as Larch, Rimer, Calle la Mesa and Danefield.

... continued on page A15

# Interested in Pilates?

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

**Special Meeting: Budget Workshop**  
Thursday, May 15, 8:30 a.m.  
Community Room, City Hall  
22 Orinda Way

**Regular Meeting:**  
Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 13, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org  
Phone (925) 253-4200

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

### School Board Meeting

#### Orinda Union School District

Monday, May 12, 6 p.m.  
OUSD Office, Vintage Building  
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



**Maureen Wilbur**

## Summit Ridge Townhome ~ Lafayette Schools

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## From On to Off Track

### Orinda's Miner Road electric line undergrounding now on hold

By Laurie Snyder

"I think you're going to sense some frustration from this council, and it would be appropriate for you to step back and explain how we got into this position," said Orinda City Council member Dean Orr as he led off the public questioning of Pacific Gas and Electric representatives regarding how a multi-million dollar utility undergrounding project went from "on track" to derailed in a matter of months.

The plan to improve one of Orinda's most heavily traveled thoroughfares began in 2004 when the City Council established an Underground Utility District on Miner Road between Camino Pablo and Lombardy Lane. "Miner Road was selected among three potential sites," reads the staff report, "because it was the most scenic road that would aesthetically benefit from the removal of utility poles and appurtenant wires. Undergrounding of the overhead utilities would also improve public

safety" by "removing roadside obstructions and reducing risks under fire, earthquake, and high wind conditions." But the project languished "due to a lack of priority and funding" by PG&E.

By 2013, PG&E representatives were back, meeting with city staff, scheduling workshops – and making a February 2014 presentation to the City Council in which corporate staff delivered the glad tidings that PG&E would finally show Miner Road some love. "They specified that this project was deemed fully funded prior to 2011 and that, as a result, the project was considered 'grandfathered' by PG&E."

"At that time," said city manager Janet Keeter, "we started having more serious discussions." But, "after a number of conversations with PG&E, with our city attorney, their attorney, it was determined very recently that ... the project could not proceed as it was scoped because the costs far ex-

ceeded the credits that the city had in the Rule 20A program" – an electric tariff that enables PG&E to underground 30 miles of overhead lines across the Bay Area each year. Projects are nominated by local or county governments with costs recovered via electric rates after the work ends.

Council members were not amused and pressed, one after another, for answers.

"I think the initial communication from PG&E was not accurate," said PG&E's public affairs manager. "We thought Orinda would be one of those projects that would be grandfathered in – even though the costs were escalated, and we could borrow out ... 30-plus years. ... We thought that this would be eligible for that kind of a funding process. I think originally that's what we communicated to the city, and that was not accurate."

"When I heard that the project costs had escalated to the extent they had – and heard that they were consid-

ering [Orinda] as a grandfathered project," said Orinda City Attorney Osa Wolff, "I asked for confirmation ... I didn't want Orinda to end up holding the bag for the cost overruns if it turned out PG&E didn't have clear CPUC authorization for covering those cost overruns. And when I researched it and talked to their attorney, it became clear to me that they did not have PUC authorization to cover the increased costs in our project's case. They had very limited grandfathering authority with respect to six jurisdictions, and we are not one of those six." Council members were also advised by PG&E that it has no other source of funding available to help.

After another 30 minutes of continued intense probing of the PG&E personnel, the City Council clarified the project's importance again, and directed city staff to continue exploring with PG&E other possible ways to get the undergrounding project back on track.



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, April 13-26

- Alarms 57
- 911 calls 7
- Auto Burglary**  
4400 block El Nido Ranch Rd
- Residential Burglary**  
La Sombra Ct
- Battery**  
Orinda Convalescent
- Death, non-criminal**  
100 block Estates Dr
- DUI Misdemeanor**  
Camino Pablo/Los Amigos  
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl  
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Wy  
St Stephens Dr/Hwy 24
- Drunk in Public**  
500 block Moraga Rd  
500 block Moraga Wy
- Elder Abuse**  
100 block Moraga Wy
- Fight**  
Orinda High School
- Juvenile Disturbance**  
Theatre Square
- Loud Music/Party**  
40 block Heather Ln  
Orinda Country Club  
Crest View Dr/Hilldale Ct  
Orinda Community Center
- Missing Adult**  
100 block Orinda Wy
- Reckless Driving**  
Moraga Via/Glorietta Bl  
Moraga Wy/Hall Dr  
Moraga Wy/Valley View Dr
- Suspicious:**
  - Person 19
  - Circumstances 8
  - Vehicle 13
- Uncontrollable Juvenile**  
Moraga Wy/Ivy Dr
- Vandalism**  
El Nido Ranch Rd/St Stephens Dr
- Warrant Arrest**  
30 block Oak Rd

## Orinda Library Celebrates a Century of Civic and Community Engagement

By Laurie Snyder



Then and now. From 1935 to 1944, the Orinda Library's home was the community's remodeled firehouse. Today, it is a central gathering place for Orindans of all ages. Photos courtesy Orinda Historical Society and Ohlen Alexander

It began as a single shelf of books in a small school of a largely summer community – a collection so tiny that it was classified as a "deposit station" rather than a library. It was 1914, and the first seeds of what would eventually blossom into a 21st century garden for bibliophiles were just being planted by Mrs. Artie Berger – Orinda's first librarian.

Circulation reached nearly 3,000 before that year was out, and continued to climb. One shelf became a four-by-four bookcase and, with the

help of the PTA, the diminutive deposit station moved from the Orinda Park School to E.I. de Laveaga's Orinda Store just over a decade later. A new librarian, Mrs. Dawson, who had been earning just \$120 per year at the beginning of her tenure, took a 25 percent pay cut to keep the doors open during the Depression. She stayed until her retirement in 1954.

After achieving stability following a 1935 relocation to Orinda's remodeled firehouse, library operations ground to a halt in 1944 when Contra

Costa County sold the structure. But Virginia Phair rode to the rescue by lobbying county administrators, the Orinda Community Church and the local Lions Club for help. By 1949, patrons were packing yet another cramped but beloved haven for booklovers – this time in a cozy room below the church's classroom for kids.

By the mid-20th century, it was the women of Van Ripper Lane who were rippin' and runnin'. As the charter members of the Orinda Junior Women's Club, they polled the com-

munity and determined that Orindans needed and wanted their own branch library and, in April 1954, brought the Lions Club and Orinda Women's Club together with Contra Costa County's new head librarian to begin making the community's dream a reality.

Funds were raised, books were purchased, and an architect was hired. The Orinda Library Board was incorporated, and the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in recognition of the community's efforts. ... continued on next page

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# Orinda Mayor Kicks off Brown Bag Lunch Series May 16

By Laurie Snyder

After her recent State of the City Address, Orinda mayor Sue Severson announced that Orindans would soon have a new way to interact with community leaders – relaxed and informally via the Mayor’s Brown Bag Lunch series. The first session of that new series will begin at noon on

May 16 in the Sarge Littlehale Community Room at City Hall, and will give Orindans the chance to talk about Crime Prevention with the mayor and Mark Nagel, Orinda’s police chief. The program is being presented free of charge. No RSVP is needed – just bring your lunch and your brain.

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# Orinda Library Celebrates a Century of Civic and Community Engagement

... continued from page A6

By 1956, Orinda’s collection numbered nearly 61,000, library hours were increasing, and planners knew their new structure would be built on the corner of Irwin Way and what is now Orinda Way. Fundraising ramped up further as the Orinda Association, churches, Chamber of Commerce members, and other organizations came on board, and 400 block captains began nudging neighbors to give and give again. Even the State Board of Education joined in, offering to provide oversight of door-to-door solicitation.

Finally, on Nov. 14, 1958, the new \$125,000 Orinda Library was dedicated. It housed 94,700 books. The Friends of the Orinda Library – an organization known today for its innovative programming of concerts

and other special events – was founded in 1959. An addition to the library opened in 1971. The City of Orinda assumed responsibility for library maintenance in 1995.

A year later, the community would take another giant leap forward as the City of Orinda animated the “Heart of Orinda” – a plan destined to transform the Orinda Village by moving the library into a new structure to be built near the Orinda Community Center and new city offices. After raising \$5 million within a 2-year period to fund most of the new library’s construction while also leading the charge to pass an 8-year, \$27 city parcel tax to fund programs and staffing, Friends of the Library and their fellow Orindans celebrated the opening of the library at its present location on

Oct. 7, 2001.

Today, as the Orinda Library begins its second century of life, the complex is a beehive of activity with patrons buzzing through 1,981 shelves filled with books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, and other materials, and visitors from across the Bay Area flitting from city council meetings to art exhibitions to toddler yoga to winter concerts in front of the fireplace or Chamber of Commerce and Orinda Historical Society activities – before relaxing over coffee with friends at the ground floor café.

“If you have a garden and a library,” said Cicero, “you have everything you need.”

To learn more about the Orinda Library visit: [www.friendsofthe-orindalibrary.org/](http://www.friendsofthe-orindalibrary.org/).

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[www.FixOrindaRoads.org](http://www.FixOrindaRoads.org)

## Orinda Library – 100th Anniversary Celebration

May 17, 3-5 p.m.

- Library Plaza (outside): Music, cupcakes and balloons; trivia contest with prizes; gift basket raffle.
- Garden Room (inside): Quilting talk and display by award-winning Orinda quilter, Liz Platt.
- Gallery Room (inside): Birthday crafts with Orinda children’s librarian, Lin Look.

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| <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$2,549,000</b><br/>5/4.5. Fabulous Traditional Orinda Home set on 2.5 Acres and Private Cul De Sac.<br/>Finola Fellner      CalBRE#01428834</p>   | <p><b>LAFAYETTE</b>      <b>\$1,220,000</b><br/>4/2. Adorable rancher at the end of a cul-de-sac close to town. Open layout, lawn, patios &amp; pool!<br/>Emily Estrada      CalBRE# 0194238</p>                      | <p><b>MORAGA</b>      <b>\$2,495,000</b><br/>4+/4. Executive home, 4837 sqft, 1.54 acre private lot, gourmet kitchen, guest house, wine cellar.<br/>Elena Hood      CalBRE#01221247</p>    | <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$1,749,000</b><br/>4/3.5. Orinda Downs Luxury through and through. Private deck w/hot tub off Mstr.<br/>Vlatka Bathgate      CalBRE#01390784</p>                         |
| <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$1,350,000</b><br/>4/3. Beautifully remodeled single level home in the Orinda Country Club. Hwd floors throughout.<br/>Zimmank/Neale CalBRE#00469962/01441356</p>                       | <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$4,900,000</b><br/>5/4.3. Gated custom home on Private Knoll with unparalleled outstanding views and features!<br/>McCann/O'Donnell CalBRE#00946092/01916567</p>                            | <p><b>MORAGA</b>      <b>\$899,000</b><br/>5/3. Great location on cul-de-sac close to K-8 Moraga schools, .44 acre lot w/pool.<br/>Elena Hood      CalBRE#01221247</p>                     | <p><b>LAFAYETTE</b>      <b>\$1,975,000</b><br/>6/5.5. Spacious Custom Home! 5112 sqft on .31 acre lot on a cul-de-sac, large bonus room, gourmet kitchen.<br/>Elena Hood      CalBRE#01221247</p> |
| <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$6,300,000</b><br/>4/3.2. Rare opportunity to buy newer estate plus two adjacent lots. Gated, wine cellar, gorgeous grounds w/pool &amp; more!<br/>Elena Hood      CalBRE#01221247</p>  | <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$2,595,000</b><br/>5/3. Gorgeous European inspired villa. Dramatic 2 sty entry. Infinity pool, cabana &amp; wine cellar.<br/>Glenn &amp; Kellie Beaubelle CalBRE#00678426</p>               | <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$2,100,000</b><br/>4/3. New construction. Gorgeous views, close to town. More pics/info at OrindaOaks.com.<br/>Glenn &amp; Kellie Beaubelle CalBRE#00678426</p>  | <p><b>LAFAYETTE</b>      <b>\$1,998,000</b><br/>4/5. Remodeled treasure near the trail. Den, bonus room and an attached unit.<br/>Kathy McCann      CalBRE#00946092</p>                            |
| <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$3,550,000</b><br/>4/3. By Appt. Only. Serene contemporary villa built in 1990 on 1.3 ac with amazing gardens, vistas &amp; privacy.<br/>The Hattersley's CalBRE# 01181995/00445794</p> | <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$1,599,000</b><br/>4/3.5. Gorgeous home in the heart of Glorietta. Spacious with a large yard &amp; pool. Perfect for entertainers.<br/>Rick &amp; Nancy Booth CalBRE#01341390/01388020</p> | <p><b>MORAGA</b>      <b>\$1,140,000</b><br/>3/2. Lovely one story contemporary with great views. Lrg rear patio, great for entertaining.<br/>Jerry Wendt      CalBRE#00178259</p>         | <p><b>ORINDA</b>      <b>\$1,695,000</b><br/>4/3. Inviting Traditional Custom w/an office, &amp; approx. 3890 sf., views &amp; a fab commute location.<br/>Patti Camras      CalBRE#01156248</p>   |
| <p><b>MORAGA</b>      <b>\$1,195,000</b><br/>4/2.5. Great Sanders Ranch Home! 2946 sqft in tranquil setting, updated kitchen and baths, spacious deck w/ hot tub.<br/>Elena Hood      CalBRE#01221247</p>         | <p><b>LAFAYETTE</b>      <b>\$2,995,000</b><br/>4/3.5. Beaut landscaped appx 1.5 acres, pool, cabana, single level, custom home amenities galore.<br/>Fellner/Beaubelle CalBRE#01428834/00678426</p>                  | <p><b>MORAGA</b>      <b>\$1,295,000</b><br/>4/3. Fabulous updated single lvl home. Flat backyard w/patio, hot tub, lawns &amp; beautiful gardens.<br/>Elena Hood      CalBRE#01221247</p> | <p><b>MORAGA</b>      <b>\$879,000</b><br/>3/2. 1 story Campolindo charmer w/hardwood floors opening to an expansive yard.<br/>The Holcenberg's CalBRE#01373412/00637795</p>                       |

5 Moraga Way | Orinda | 925.253.4600  
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## Massage Envy Opens in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Jesse Waters, Diana Recalde, Laura Lott, Dillon Lowe, Joy Moore and Jasper Gillespie.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Massage Envy is a fast growing franchise with more than 950 spas opened over the last 12 years. The business formula combines a membership-based fee, which makes massages and facials more affordable, with a selection of specialized massage therapists and beauticians. The two friends who purchased the first license in Lamorinda, Laura Lott and Joy Moore, met in the corporate world and wanted to start something together that fed their souls. Their grand opening celebration is on May 8 in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center.

Massage Envy clients are greeted in a large, softly colored entryway by friendly staff and ushered into one of the 11 private treatment rooms; one room is dedicated to couple's massage and another is fragrance-free.

Lott and Moore met 20 years ago while working in human resources for Motorola. They kept in touch over the years even when careers and families took them to different places. "We were just looking for something that would resonate for both of us," says Lott. Then one day Moore was visiting Lott in Atlanta and was treated to a massage at Massage Envy by her friend. "When I saw how it was run, and I got this really great massage, it just spoke to me," recalls Moore. "As we left the place Laura and I looked at each other and the light bulb went off; this would be the perfect business for us."

They contacted the company's headquarters, were interviewed and then quickly accepted into the system. It took them a while to find the right place and get trained. "Massage Envy's regional developer recommended different places," says Moore. "When we looked at Lamorinda we immediately loved it." They searched for a place that was large enough, had enough parking, and would be safe. The Rheem Shopping Center was a good fit; they combined two existing retail spaces and, aside from a few incidents common in construction, things moved smoothly toward the soft opening on April 21.

Recruiting the right massage therapists has been their highest priority. "Massage Envy has very strict requirements regarding the massage

therapists we hire (never use the word *masseuse* in front of them), licensing, experience, criminal background check," says Lott. "The hard part about the interviews is that we have to get a massage ourselves," adds Moore with a smile.

Moore says that she trained with the No. 1 store in the region for 18 months to understand not only the business model but also what makes the difference between a good massage and a great massage. They hired massage therapists who have additional specialized training in areas such as treating migraines or sports injuries. "We are now training them to make sure they master all the details, such as warming hands, being able to really listen to the person's preference, and accommodating differences," says Moore.

The marketing concept behind the success of Massage Envy is the membership that people purchase to get massages at a discount. For \$59.99 a month, clients get a monthly one-hour massage (the regular price is \$109.99), additional massages are \$49.99. "We got calls from Lamorinda residents who are already Massage Envy members and go to Walnut Creek for their treatment," explains Moore. "With their membership, they can go to any Massage Envy nationally."

"People can give one or many of their monthly massages to someone of their choice," adds Moore, "for example, there is a local small business owner who purchased a membership and gives a massage to the employee of the month."

Services include relaxation, deep tissue, sports and foot massage, and specialized treatments such as cranial sacral therapy, geriatric and prenatal massage; they also offer aromatherapy and facials using skin products by Murad. Massage Envy is open every day at 558 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center; call (925) 376-3689 or go to [www.facebook.com/MassageEnvyLamorinda](http://www.facebook.com/MassageEnvyLamorinda).

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

## Trivia Bee Buzz

By Amanda Kuehn



From left: Chamber president Sylvia Jorgensen; winning Aklan Boy Scouts team members Eric Jorgensen, Ruth Helsel, Ed Isely, Joe Squeri, Patricia Young, and Michele Poloka; Rotary president Sue Breedlove.

Photo Cathy Dausman

A buzz of excitement filled the air of the Orinda Masonic Lodge the evening of April 25 as Sue Breedlove, president of the Orinda Rotary Club, took the stage. Clad in a yellow and black-striped costume, black antennae headband and white synthetic wings, Breedlove grabbed the mic and announced the start of the first ever Orinda Trivia Bee, presented by Orinda Rotary and Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

What is the name of the Pillsbury dough-boy? Muffled whispers filled the room, as members of the Lamorinda Weekly Team debated between Puffy and Puff, before settling on Poppin' Fresh (the correct answer).

Sixteen teams participated in four rounds of trivia queries. Team Lamorinda Weekly was tied with the Orinda Arts Council for first place at the end of Round A. Though some argument had ensued over the meaning of antepenulti-

mate, the team was doing well. Round B brought 20 more questions, including a local fact about the elevation of Orinda and a challenge to name a popular Vietnamese sandwich. The Weekly fell to second place, with four other teams tying for first. By the end of Round C, tension had grown, with team members debating over the third color in a barber's pole and the lyrics to YMCA. Round D proved the most challenging for the members of Team Lamorinda Weekly, none of whom knew the common name for sodium hypochlorite (bleach).

At the end, four teams were tied at 69 points each; the Weekly eked out a total of 66 points. Based on their scores in Round D, the orange-shirted friends of the Aklan Boy Scouts were deemed the winners of the evening and rose to the stage to claim their prize – an \$800 check made out to their favorite non-profit organization.

## business briefs

### Total Clean Receives Moraga Small Business Award 2014



Kimberly Winter, owner of Total Clean, received Moraga's Small Business of the Year Award. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Kimberly Winter's Total Clean has taken care of hundreds of homes in Lamorinda for almost 30 years. The service business started by the graduate of Saint Mary's College employs some 20 people who can be seen driving around the area in the spotless white cars displaying the company logo. At the Chamber of Commerce meeting on May 1, Winter received the Small Business of the Year award from the chamber and she is invited to participate in the 14th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon on May 9 at the Concord Hilton, honoring award winning small business owners selected by their respective chambers of commerce throughout Contra Costa County and the Tri-Valley. Total Clean is located at 329-B Rheem Blvd. in Moraga, (925) 376-1004, and on the web at [totalclean.biz](http://totalclean.biz).

### Filice Insurance East Bay Relocates to Moraga

1150 Moraga Way, Moraga  
(925) 962-1980, [www.filice.com](http://www.filice.com)



Filice Insurance; women, from left: Joyce Manasala, Britney Baker-Goodgame, Nancy Centeno, Michelle Rumberg, Denise Kelly, Jansmine Perez; men: Tony Hart, Eric Pogue, Ryan Preston, Dan Michellini and Eric Bjornson. Photo Sophie Braccini

Filice Insurance is a benefits consulting firm that was created by Ron Filice in San Jose in 1989. The company steadily grew and now has a presence in Sacramento, Irvine and San Jose. The East Bay office, led by Dan Michellini, was located on Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette but a few months ago it acquired a completely renovated office building in Moraga. "We have 34 employees here," says Michellini. "The previous office had a great location near the Veterans Building, but it was run down. This one has been completely remodeled to our needs." The new site is wide and lets plenty of natural light in, the offices are spacious and there is even an exercise room for the team. Many of the staff live in Lamorinda and all are quite happy to be in Moraga. "We have started to explore our options for lunch around Moraga," says benefit consultant Eric Bjornson, who lives in Orinda and who would not divulge his favorite. "We are already part of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and will continue to be very active in the business community," adds Michellini.

### GemLust Opens in Lafayette 3529 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette (925) 385-7121



GemLust Photo provided by Renée Kubryk

Renée Kubryk is a professional jeweler who works with private clients to procure and design unique presents such as engagement rings. For a while, she's had an eBay store where she sold jewelry and also used designer bags and accessories. She also recently decided to open her first retail shop in Lafayette. "I chose Lafayette because I love the diversity

of this community," she says. "I had great pleasure designing a clean and elegant look for my store, to give clients the feeling that they are in a celebrity closet." The shop is inviting and elegant. "I learned that the customer experience must be flawless, whether people come here to buy or sell," adds Kubryk, "and since we have a college here, I added a bargain corner." GemLust is open three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and by appointment the rest of the time. "I continue to be a private jeweler, that is why the store is open only part time," she adds. The soft opening of GemLust was in April and Kubryk plans a grand opening with the Chamber of Commerce in the near future.

### Moraga's Parkmon Vineyard Wins "Best of Show – White"

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Parkmon Vineyard won "Best of Show – White" at the Brentwood Contra Costa Winegrowers Commercial Wine Competition. A panel of six judges spent the morning sipping 40 wines from nine wineries, seven of them in Contra Costa County, during the association's third annual event. Parkmon Vineyard belongs to the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association.

### Honorees at Coldwell Banker Residential in Orinda

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Nancy Stryker has earned membership in the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage International President's Premier Society and Andi Peterson Brown was named to Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage International President's Circle. Stryker grew up in Berkeley and has lived in Lafayette for 39 years. A graduate of the University of Washington and an active member of the community, she is a professional member of the Contra Costa Board of Realtors and the California Association of Realtors. Brown is an Orinda native who joined Coldwell Banker in 2009 after five years of marketing and selling homes with The Mark Company in San Francisco. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude from UCLA, and was a member of the 2008 USC Lusk School of Real Estate's Ross Fellowship program. She currently enjoys membership in both the California and National Association of Realtors. Reach Stryker at (925) 890-6911 or [nancystryker@gmail.com](mailto:nancystryker@gmail.com) and Brown at (925) 818-4588 or [andi.brown@camoves.com](mailto:andi.brown@camoves.com).



Nancy Stryker



Andi Peterson Brown

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Ribbon cutting at Massage Envy, 558 Center Street in the Moraga Rheem Shopping Center, at 5 p.m. on May 8; both the Lafayette and Moraga chambers of commerce will participate.

#### Lafayette

Monthly mixer at Wine Thieves from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on May 14, 3401 Mt Diablo Blvd. A variety of wines and fresh artisan cheeses will be served.

The Tour de Lafayette, on May 18, is co-sponsored by Go Lafayette and the Chamber of Commerce. Cyclists from all over the area will tour downtown Lafayette as a short tribute to le Tour de France from 2 to 6 p.m. Riders will be stopping in businesses all over Lafayette, who might give a "take-away" ranging from a cookie, to a small cupcake, to a mug of cold beer. The Melt, a local food truck, will be parked in La Fiesta Square parking lot, serving comfort food, like grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup. 12th annual Taste of Lafayette, May 20 from 5:30 to 9 p.m., starting with music, wine and appetizers at the Lafayette Plaza. Tickets on the Chamber of Commerce website, [www.Lafayettechamber.org](http://www.Lafayettechamber.org).

#### Moraga

Community Faire on May 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; fun, discovery, food, and activities for the whole family.

#### Orinda

Mixer at RPM Mortgage from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on May 22 at 51 Moraga Way #2.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)



# The Tangled Web of Lamorinda Ambulance Service

By Nick Marnell

Shortly after sunrise on Nov. 12 the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to an emergency medical call in Lafayette. A child was determined to be in serious condition and Captain Gil Caravantes asked for an ambulance to transport the patient to the hospital. ConFire's ambulance provider, American Medical Response, relayed that it was 20 minutes away, said Caravantes, so he asked for mutual aid from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. MOFD Medic 141 arrived in less than 10 minutes and transported the child to John Muir Hospital, where he was treated and released.

How does something seemingly so obvious become a news story, let alone the lead paragraph of one? Because ConFire has a contract with AMR to provide its ambulance service and Caravantes technically violated that contract by calling for MOFD. The incident illustrates one of the many complexities of the county emergency medical service system.

"By the letter of the law, AMR is the one authorized to ask for mutual aid," said ConFire battalion chief Ben Smith, EMS division. "Technically, we should wait for the AMR ambulance."

"I didn't feel comfortable with that," said Caravantes. "MOFD was right around the corner, so I asked to dispatch the MOFD ambulance. I realize ConFire has a contract with AMR, but, we're all about care and safety first."

Erik Rohde, the AMR general manager for Contra Costa County, did not respond to questions for this article.

As counter intuitive as the contract situation may seem, MOFD chief Stephen Healy explained the rationale. "We have to stay within our operating area," he said. "That's the way the system is designed - to prevent chaos. We don't have a right to go into AMR's exclusive operating area to provide ambulance transport; we went because we were called."

"AMR has provided us with a lot of mutual aid; I don't want them to think we were poaching."

The chief added, "What if one of

our district residents called for an ambulance, but we were unavailable because we were occupied where we should not have been?"

Unlike ConFire, MOFD has no contract with AMR. MOFD has the exclusive right to provide ambulance service in its district under the California health and safety code because the district provided its own ambulance service prior to June 1, 1980.

"I called Chief Healy and explained what we did and told him the reasons why," said Caravantes. But the captain said he was questioned by his superiors about his actions.

"'Why would you do that,' they asked," said Caravantes. "'Well, you weren't there,' I said. They thought I might catch some flak for it, but that I should be okay. I should be okay? For going above and beyond? 'Don't worry,' I told them. 'I'm okay.'"

"I would do it again in a heartbeat," continued the captain. "Would I get called on the carpet for doing it? Absolutely. Is what I did the right thing to do? Absolutely."

"That's the way the system should run, but that's not the way the system is set up," said Smith. "I support what captain Caravantes did. If I were the captain, I would have done the same thing."

"If the ambulances were operated by the fire districts in the county, this type of situation would not occur," said ConFire chief Jeff Carman. "The fire service is very good at sharing resources and always sends the closest resource regardless of what agency it comes from. This situation is not unique, and in the best interest of our customers I support captain Caravantes' decision to call for the closest resource."



**Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings**

**Next meetings:**

**Wednesday, May 7**  
check website for updates

(Go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

## New AEDs for MOFD Area

By Cathy Dausman



Darrell Lee with AED Lifepak

Photo Cathy Dausman

Eight new automated external defibrillators valued in excess of \$20,000 were delivered to the Moraga and Orinda police departments, four each, during presentations at two recent council meetings. An AED is a portable device that can be used for treatment during sudden cardiac arrest (heart attack). It produces a shock if needed to help restore the heart to normal rhythm. The Lifepak model 1000 AEDs were a gift from Rescue One Foundation.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District division chief Darrell Lee addressed

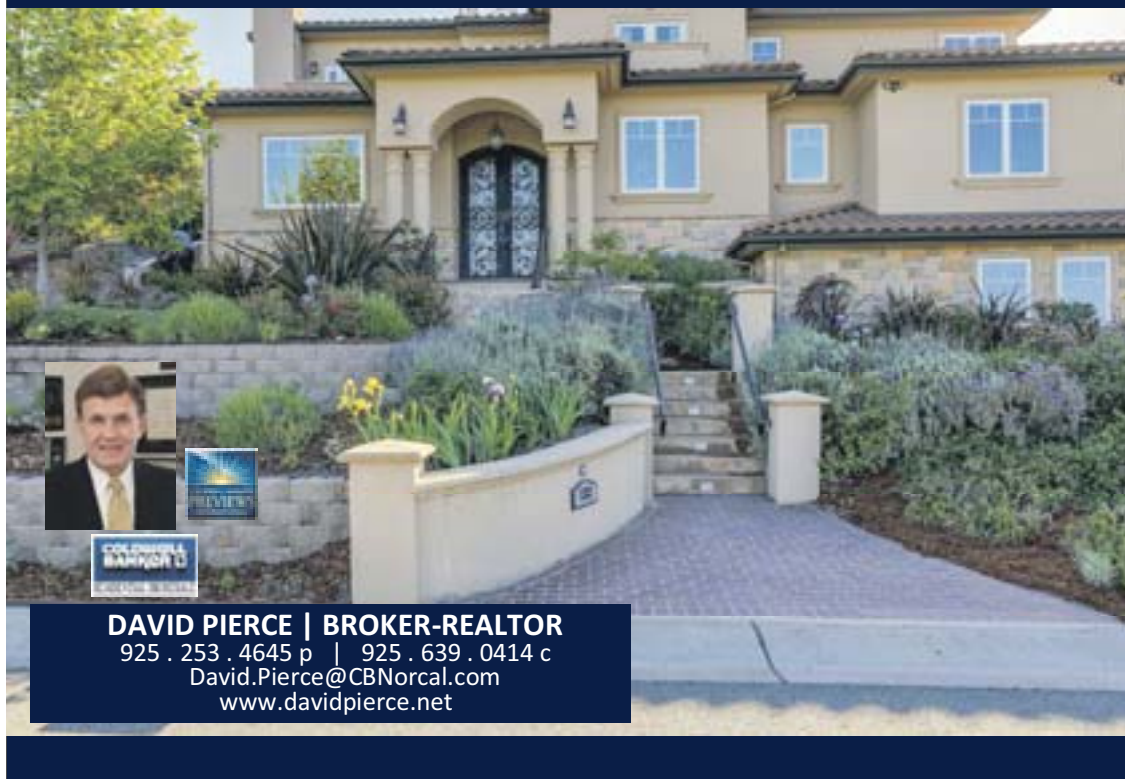
the Moraga Town Council at its April 23 meeting. "When I started as a paramedic 34 years ago, there was no AED," he said. Then in 1997 MOFD paramedics began the first county partnership with local law enforcement officers in Moraga and Orinda, offering AED training. Since then Lamorinda police have used the AEDs on many occasions, and two Moraga police officers are credited with using an AED to help save the life of a cardiac arrest victim.

... continued on page A16


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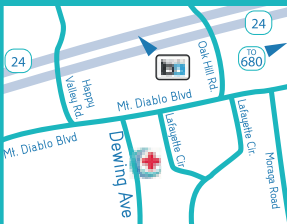
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**Letters to the Editor**

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Editor:

My youngest child recently graduated from Miramonte High School. I have had two children go through the Acalanes Union High School District, and I can say that each child received an exceptional education. Although my children are now in college and at work, I will still vote Yes on A because I know that the District is struggling to preserve core academic programs, music and arts, computers, technology, and science labs. I want to make sure that each student receives the education my children did. I'm voting Yes on A and I hope you will join me.

Janet Riley  
Orinda

Editor:

I am a long time resident of Lafayette and our children all attended school in town. I am also acutely aware of how important good schools are to our town. That being said, I am troubled by the structure of Measures A and B, and for the first time I may vote against school taxes based on what I believe to be structures that are not good for the long term health of Lafayette. First, both measures are permanent, taking any real oversight or review away from taxpayers. The monies will be collected forever, regardless of need. Second, and even more troubling is that measure B includes a COLA adjustment. This is badly undisciplined policy as it bakes automatic increases into the taxes collected each and every year. What I find disingenuous is the advertising and description of the measures. If you look around Lafayette there are hundreds of signs up claiming that tax rates will not increase, when as a point of fact in measure B the COLA will absolutely lead to annual automatic and permanent increases in taxes. I would happily vote for 'clean' tax measures that have a sunset date and no COLA, but voters should think carefully about the long term implications before voting on measures A and B. Note that the Contra Costa Times has come out against both measures. I do not always agree with their take on things, but in this case I have to agree with them.

Richard Cohen  
Lafayette

Editor:

The "nattering nabobs of negativitism" are wrong about Orinda Measure J, a \$20 million bond that will fix Orinda's worst roads. They want you to turn down a plan that polled with 70 per cent support. They have no plan to fix our awful roads. They prefer our inexorable march to gravel. No one is going to pay to fix our roads except us. With a combination of existing funding including the Measure L sales tax; the Measure J bond; and a future additional ballot measure to be determined based on the community's preference and future cost, Orinda will finally enjoy all roads at an acceptable level. Measure J requires the funds to be spent on Orinda roads and drains. It will be Orinda's money, coming directly to us and completely controlled by us, the very epitome of local control. How much will all of this cost? If someone can perfectly predict the weather; utility work on our roads; interest rates; mudslides and drain failures; and the growth of property and sales taxes in Orinda, then ask that person to give you a precise figure. Our City is in sound financial shape, except for the roads. Orinda is the rare entity that does not have a defined benefit retirement program for its employees. It has a defined contribution program. The City does not provide a retirement medical plan. This prudent approach has spared Orinda the rapidly rising pension costs that have caused service cuts in most other cities and agencies. But even with no pension overhang, the seven cents that Orinda receives from each property tax dollar is not enough to fix a problem that exceeds \$50 million. Vote "Yes" on Measure J. The time for us to repair our roads is now!

Carol Penskar  
Orinda

Editor:

There is No Road Fairy. Orinda's roads need fixing. I don't think a single resident of Orinda would disagree with that statement. The question is: Who will fix them? Orinda has tapped every available resource and still come up short on funding. These are our roads, they need repairs and no one else is going to do it. We have put this off far too long. The longer we put off repairing the roads, the bigger the job and the bigger the price tag. We all need to step up and vote for Measure J to provide much needed funds for repairs. It is our town. They are our roads. They are our responsibility. They need to be fixed now. There is no road fairy, but together we can do this. Vote YES ON MEASURE J.

Best regards,  
Nancy Booth  
Orinda

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If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to **letters@lamorindaweekly.com** and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

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# Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!



Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

On June 3 Orinda voters will vote for a \$20 million road bond measure (Measure J). There appears to be two camps on the issue: (A) Our roads are bad and not getting any better and we really need to start fixing them now; and (B) Our roads are bad and not getting any better but we need a plan which will insure that they will all get fixed, and define what "fix" means, before we possibly throw \$20 million down the rabbit hole. Interestingly, virtually no one says we should not fix the roads and very few say we cannot afford to fix our roads (that would be somewhat of a specious argument for people sitting on \$8 billion of residential realty). The whole problem is process and trust.

The City has had 8 years since the Infrastructure Committee released its report on the status of our roads to come up with a plan. It released the first version of its "10-Year-Plan" in 2012. Now, the City is ready to move into Phase 2 of its revised Plan: \$20 million to fix the worst of the worst residential streets over the next four years. The Plan is very specific that the Measure J money will be used only for roads and underlying drainage and that it will be focused on Orinda's worst residential streets.

The question "dissenters" have is "what comes next"? The Plan says that the City "anticipates" that all roads will then be brought up to good condition with another \$25 million over four more years. Alternative analyses ([www.FixOrindaRoads.info](http://www.FixOrindaRoads.info)) say it will cost another \$70 million and ten more years to fix everything properly.

It all comes down to trust. Some trust the City, and their fellow voters, to move forward bit-by-bit until all roads are fixed. Others, after eight years and little movement, want to see the plan more "fleshed out" with more of a "guarantee" it will end in completion before they commit \$20 million even though they accept that the \$20 million is desperately needed. Who's right? How do we bring them together?

Steve Cohn  
Orinda

Editor:

Please fix Orinda's roads.

Orinda's roads are in terrible disrepair. I believe these poor roads are hurting property values in Orinda. We need to fix our roads. Delaying the repair process will only cost us more in the future as the roads deteriorate more rapidly over time. The citizens of Orinda have been discussing solutions for a number of years. Measure J funding will support a terrific next step in repairing our roads. We cannot delay taking action any longer.

Measure J provides funding to fix our worst residential roads. It will improve safety for drivers, passengers, bike riders, and pedestrians. It will also improve the overall quality of life in Orinda for everyone. I urge you to vote yes on Measure J!

Sincerely,  
Craig Jorgens  
Orinda

Editor:

Home cookin' is always best.

Home cookin'... and City of Orinda Measure J? (June 2014 \$20 million bond ballot measure, to help fix Orinda's Roads)

Yes. All of the money raised will stay right in Orinda. Home cookin'.

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Consider our state income tax: Taxes paid by cities generally subsidize rural areas. (Average Contra Costa County tax return generates twice the amount of a Nevada County return, 5x the amount of an Imperial County return.)

Our "local" property taxes? Of \$1.00, less than 20 cents stays in Orinda, most of that spent for MOFD (fire) and not for the City of Orinda.

Local sales taxes? About 80% leaves Orinda for the County or the State.

Though part of our property tax, all of the Measure J money will stay home. Measure J fixes our roads, not the other guy's roads. (And, spending is controlled by volunteer Orinda citizens, the Orinda Infrastructure Oversight Commission).

Orinda's Measure J. Home cookin'.

Our vote is yes for both.

Dave and Sandy Anderson  
Orinda

Editor:

The opponents to the recent bond measure to improve Orinda's roads recognize that Orinda's roads are in desperate shape and need upgrading. Yet they offer nothing by way of a fix. The current bond measure, while perhaps not the complete answer, is a reasonable start toward bringing most of Orinda's roads to drivable conditions. The longer we wait to address this issue in a meaningful way, the more it will cost the citizens of Orinda in the long term.

When my family moved to Orinda in 1972, the roads were bad. Continued neglect over the years have made them worse to the point that citizen safety has become an issue. We must address these issues now. Please vote to improve our roads. No one will be coming to our rescue in the future. It is up to us now to take the first step.

Sincerely,  
Jim Roethe  
Orinda



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## Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Lafayette Twin Uses the Net to Raise Malaria Awareness

Submitted by Jennifer Aaker



Photo provided

Last year, Lafayette middle-schooler Cooper Smith decided to donate his birthday money to support Nothing But Nets. This year, however, he took to the Net – the Internet – to tweet and post videos of himself and 15 of his friends shooting basketball trick shots to raise awareness about the global, grassroots organization dedicated to fighting malaria by sending insecticide-treated mosquito bed nets to children and families in sub-Saharan Africa.

"This year my birthday [had] a basketball theme – but I didn't really need a new basketball hoop or sneakers. I just want others to know about malaria and how it easily it can be prevented," said

Cooper. "So for my birthday, I [hosted] a trick shot competition to raise awareness for Nothing But Nets at Oakwood in Lafayette, and help make sure kids don't get sick from malaria. My best friend is doing one as well. We hope others will join in."

The idea was part of the month-long United Nations Foundation's Nothing But Nets campaign launched to challenge Americans across the country to "Compete to Beat Malaria." A deadly disease, transmitted by a single mosquito bite, Malaria kills more than 600,000 people worldwide every year and claims the life of a child every 60 seconds. But bed nets provide a simple, cost-effective solution and can reduce the

spread of malaria by 90 percent in areas with high coverage rates. Together with its UN partners, the Nothing But Nets campaign has delivered more than 7 million bed nets since 2006.

When asked why he chose Nothing but Nets, Cooper responded: "So why do I believe in Nothing But Nets so much? Well, first, \$10 to save one life is crazy. And that net is just so helpful. And malaria is just a terrible thing that is simply caused by mosquitoes. And if you can just deny the mosquitoes, that is all you really have to do. It is as simple as that. Plus, Nothing But Nets is really something special. When people donate to a charity, all they want is the organization to be is (1) cheap and (2) helpful. Nothing But Nets is extremely cheap and extremely helpful at the same time. Which is why I love it so much."

Cooper's twin brother, Devon, also caught the philanthropic bug and asked friends and family to donate in lieu of gifts for his birthday to IDEO.org, a non-profit organization focused on social intervention to impact global poverty. Both boys raised over \$2,185 collectively for their chosen organizations. For more information about Nothing But Nets, visit [www.NothingButNets.net](http://www.NothingButNets.net).

### Brunch, Bridge and Bunco Event Benefits Community

Submitted by Susan Sperry



From left: Moraga Women's Society president Rachel Riddle, event chairperson Jean Glaser, and membership chairperson Colleen Lund. Photo provided

It may have been raining in Moraga on March 31 but it was spring in the Holy Trinity Cultural Center as the Moraga Women's Society and guests gathered for Brunch, Bridge and Bunco. The festivities began with mimosas and conversation followed by a delicious brunch of Eggs Benedict prepared by Roos Pal of Terzetto's Café of Moraga. Event chairperson Jean Glaser chose spring colors to complete

the floral table centerpieces created by Colleen Lund and Susan Sperry. Roberta Klaproth, just home from traveling in India, organized the 50/5 drawing and Judy Butler and Sally Church were hospitality co-chairs. Bridge activities were organized by Donna Sumner and Gloria Enstrom with Roberta Klaproth hosting a rowdy Bunco competition. Thanks to the over-all organization of president Rachel Riddle

the event was enjoyed by all. The Moraga Women's Society is a non-profit organization. All money raised from outside sources is used for the betterment of the community. The object of the club is to provide community service, promote cultural improvement and provide social activities for its members. For more information about the club and/or membership questions call (925) 376-3520.

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.



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## Girl Scout Cadettes Raise Funds and Awareness

Submitted by Sam Sweeney



Eighth grade Troop members, from left: Stella Burford, Sam Sweeney, Maggie Gerding, Marlo Winquist and Emma Kacharmina. Photo provided

Girl Scout Cadette Troop 30658 has partnered with the Girl Up Foundation to raise funds and awareness to earn their Silver Award. Girl Up is a UN foundation that helps adolescent girls in developing countries receive an education to build a better life for themselves. Girls around the world face barriers to education that boys do not. Breaking barriers such as early marriage, gender-based

violence, domestic slavery and sex trafficking means not only a better life for girls, but a healthier and more prosperous world for all. More than 16 million girls today are out of school. The Cadette Troop kicked off their mission by screening the movie, "Girl Rising." They also recently held a community garage sale May 4 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette to raise funds.

## New Troop 212 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Lauren Woolsey



From left, back row: Alex Gannett, Tyler Moore, Matt Woolsey, and Hunter Rosenbaum; front row: Rick Lomas, Kevin Schori, Garrett Neustrom, and Jonathan Bellingham. Photo Karen Drinkwater

Boy Scout Troop 212 conducted their 51st National Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, April 27 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, which sponsors the troop, to celebrate 8 outstanding young men earning the Eagle Award. This year's Troop 212 Eagle Scout honorees from Campolindo High School are:

Matt Woolsey, who put together 45 fleece blankets for Amor Ministries' work in Tijuana, to be given to underprivileged families there; Tyler Moore, who built eight large wooden box platforms to help the Los Perales Elementary School students reach the new interactive blackboards; Hunter Rosenbaum, who made two movable, carpeted stage extension boxes for the sanctuary at MVPC; Jonathan Bellingham, who built a stone landscaping wall at Joaquin Mor-

aga Intermediate School; Kevin Schori, who built outdoor benches at Camino Pablo Elementary School; Garrett Neustrom, who made several white board easels for teachers at Los Perales Elementary School; Alex Gannett, who built two cedar planter boxes for MVPC; and Rick Lomas, who made portable bike racks for the town of Moraga, for use in the Moraga Triathlon.

Eagle is the highest award that a Scout can earn. Nationally, only about 4 percent of all boys who enter the Scouting program earn the award. Troop 212 has an active program of campouts, summer camps, and high adventure activities. The Troop currently has 75 youth actively involved in its programs. Troop 212 has awarded this special honor to 386 scouts since 1961.

## Lafayette Rotary Donates Books to Martinez Juvenile Center

Submitted by Norma Evans



Martinez Juvenile Center librarian, Nadia, with donated books. Photo provided

As part of its Literacy Program, the Rotary Club of Lafayette collected 174 softbound books and delivered them to the Martinez Juvenile Center April 30. The librarian, Nadia, was very happy with all the books – especially the new ones, which were purchased from their Amazon wish list, said

Rotary member Norma Evans, adding: "The librarian says the boys are taken in small groups down to the library for activities and to pick out books weekly." The Rotary planned to bring an additional 50 hardbound books that were donated to the Juvenile Center in Byron last week.

## Del Rey 4th Graders Restore Creek Habitats

Submitted by Jessie Olson



Front row, from left: Del Rey Elementary School students Ethan Haines, Allison Neff, Mrs. Terri Brasch, Ella Miller, Davey Maguire, Aidan Mccartt, Trevor Grosso; middle row: Daisy Shea, Isabella Velazquez, Apameh Berloui, Annaluna Giacich, Ava Lippi, Anna Crinks, Elena Gant; back row: Audrey Biles, Megan Dhillon, Matt Radell, JJ Sautter Savilla, Natalie Kurtz, Willy Hodder, Sam Ross, Marissa Duby, Will Fuller, and Gavin Boettner. Photo John Zentner

In March, students from Orinda's Del Rey Elementary School completed a hands-on creek restoration project on Moraga Creek, a local waterway which runs adjacent to their school. Led by a team of biologists and volunteers from The Restoration Trust, the fourth grade classes of Terri Brasch and John Moran removed non-native species, such like as English ivy, and planted over 1,000 native riparian species. The restoration effort began in 2009 along Moraga Creek with teacher John Moran's fourth grade class and has continued in the subsequent years. Students have returned to the creek annually to monitor their projects and view the success of their plantings. Brasch enforces the value in this type of hands-on activity, stating that the work allows them to see "how taking care of our environment is so important to the health of the creek." In the five years since the effort has been initiated, the population of aggressive English ivy had been reduced while the planted native species have thrived. The activities were accompanied by a dis-

cussion on how such actions help to protect the health of Moraga Creek and reduce erosion. Events such as this develop students' sense of connection to the well-being of urban waterways and green space that run through their communities. Moran, a strong advocate for his student's involvement, asserts "with creeks cradling all of Orinda's school, creek restoration is a perfect opportunity for students to experience hands-on field work related to their science curriculum and also to feel the power of positively impacting their local ecological community." They learn of the role of wetlands in providing wildlife habitat, filtering pollutants introduced through runoff, reducing flood events, and providing beautification to the neighborhood. "They were all so eager to get their hands dirty," Brasch remarked on the event. "I am so thankful that my students have this opportunity to help their creek!"

Funding for this project was partially provided by the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee.

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## From Front Page

### Seeing Double: Nothing Says Togetherness Like Twins

... continued from page A1

"We (Ferber and husband, Stan) were relieved to find that there were only two, since we already had a 3-year-old son, Michael, and three boys would be quite enough. Of course, life with 'three under 3' was hectic and demanding in the beginning and we relied on friends during those early months," she said. Older twin Mark shared a nursery with Alan but as they grew each boy was given his own room "to nurture their individual identities." They enrolled at the same university with different majors. "Ironically, they were both drawn to music in a big way," Ferber said. Both became professional jazz musicians.

Ferber's advice for mothers of twins: "Ask for help in the early years and give equal time to siblings."

Amy Morosini's doctor told her, "I hope you're ready for twins." Her husband paled. Twin births run in her mother's family, and her second cousins later had twins. The pregnancy was a difficult one, Morosini said, but when Jake and Nick arrived one month early "it was an instant family." She was naïve, she said, to think she could do it all. "I wasn't expecting I'd have any problems," she said.

Lacking immediate family nearby, Morosini scrambled to get help and enrolled in a twin support group. "I wish I'd done that before they were born," she said, suggesting parents line up help right away. Night nurses or doulas book months in advance. "You're going to need time to sleep." The Morosini twins are both competitive and each other's best friend, but still two unique individuals.

Lafayette resident Lynnette Potter and her husband were elated just to be pregnant, "however on the way home from the doctor's office my husband and I started to panic; we already had a 9 month old at home," she said. The pair shared a room until they were 6. "I think kids probably always feel a loss of identity when someone refers to them as 'the younger sister of,' or 'twin sister of,'" she said, but she learned that no matter how similar their age and upbringing, each will develop their own personality. "With twins, the learning curve for parenting can be twice as steep."

Deborah de Lambert of Orinda thinks it's fortunate she had her twins first. Mother of fraternal twin sons Jarett and Kyle Visher, she explained that by the time their younger sister arrived, de Lambert thought, "I'll never be able to go grocery shopping!"

She pictured herself wearing a baby in a carrier and "getting on with life." Instead de Lambert was nearly overwhelmed just receiving her first week's supply of diapers from a diaper service. She remembers being "flat out exhausted," adding "that first year is really tough." However once the boys reached pre-school age "it got pretty easy and a lot of fun."

Then came simultaneous adolescence, and "that gets a little hairy," de Lambert admitted. When Kyle kicked Jarett out of the room they both shared it was like "getting a divorce." But her twins remain so connected they don't realize they're connected, she said. "They take their best friend around with them," she said.

Cailey and Shannon McVay of



Cole and Ryan Sitar



Cheryl and Dylan Potter



From left: Alan, mother Kathy, and Mark Ferber.

Photo courtesy Kathy Ferber

Lafayette say it's "cool" being twins. "The girls do a lot of things together," said their mother, Beth McVay. "But their personalities are different and actually complement each other." As babies, Cailey was into arts and crafts and Shannon was always into animals; now, Cailey is thinking of becoming a lawyer and Shannon is thinking of becoming a nurse.

"They think they have telepathic powers with each other," their mother said, and "they always look after each other." Because they had the twins first, McVay did not join a support group. "We didn't know any better," she said. With 16-plus feeds per day and 16-plus diaper changes a day, having lots of family support and help during that time period is a blessing, McVay said.

"Enjoy it," counsels de Lambert, of the time a parent will spend raising

twins, "it's an amazing relationship." Bradley added, "Everyone smiles at twins."

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 131,269 twin births, just slightly over 3 per cent of the nearly 4 million reported births that year. Triplets, quadruplets, quintuplets and "higher order multiples" were even rarer, accounting for only 5,417 births, collectively. Prospective parents of multiples can tap the following organizations for help:  
 Multiples of America  
<http://www.nomotc.org/>  
 Twin Valley Mothers of Twins  
<http://www.tvmotc.org/>  
 Contra Costa Parents of Multiples  
<http://www.ccpom.net>  
 Twins by the Bay  
[www.twinsbythebay.org](http://www.twinsbythebay.org)

## Civic News Moraga

# Cliff Dochterman – Citizen of the World – Moraga Citizen of the Year

... continued from page A4

Two blocks from here there might be two seniors dying of loneliness, people who are hungry, kids who have drug problems, or someone who is being abused. There are problems we can identify everywhere and things we can do.”

There are many stories about Dochterman, from the most local to the most global. When asked why he never hesitates to take on tasks of a global magnitude, he says it might be

because of his naivety. Where obstacles and difficulties would overwhelm others, he just sees a need and applies his talents, reaching out to others, organizing, motivating and making a difference.

Dochterman was honored by the town of Moraga on May 2 during a dinner supported by the Moraga Valley Kiwanis, the Chamber of Commerce, Saint Mary's College, Contra Costa Times and Lamorinda Weekly.

# Moraga's 2014 Pavement Project

... continued from page A5

The failed portions of the streets will be excavated then repaired and covered with a solid road treatment; the whole process will take about 40 working days, according to Kwan.

“The treatment we will apply this year is much thicker,” Kwan explains. “Last year it was a rubber emulsion with chips on top and a slurry seal. This year each street will get a specific treatment, such as a 2-inch overlay with the sides ground so it conforms to the gutters; some might be thicker with a 3-inch treatment; every street is treated special.” Kwan adds that some streets will get a rubberized asphalt treatment, which lasts twice as long as regular asphalt.

Each street is being assessed precisely, with techniques such as coring (extracting a deep sample to see what

the asphalt looks like underneath), and deflection testing, which consists of dropping a heavy metal beam on the street while measuring how much of the shock is deflected by the road. The testing determines the pavement structural layer stiffness and the sub-grade resilience.

At this time Moraga's Public Works department is finishing the bid documents for publication in May. The responses will be analyzed and presented to the Town Council for a decision at its July 9 meeting. “This year we will conduct an extensive outreach program to impacted neighbors, as we did last year, and the town's website and Facebook pages will be updated daily so people know exactly what to expect and when,” promises Kwan.

## From Front Page

# How do Lamorinda Cities Deal with Water Cutbacks?

... continued from page A1



EBMUD General Manager Alexander Coate celebrates the East Bay sipping Sacramento River water for the first time at a press conference. Photo Ohlen Alexander

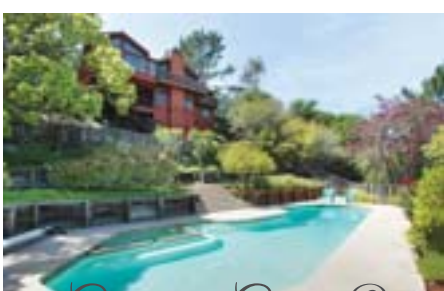
In Orinda, the water feature with the charming frog at the Library Plaza recirculates water – so that will remain on during the summer months, said Michelle Lacy, director of Parks and Recreation. However the water feature at the tot lot, which is currently off, will remain off during the summer. The city is in an unusual situation in that it has added sports fields at Wilder to its portfolio of watering needs. Two of those fields are artificial turf, so don't need irrigation, but Lacy explained it's a safety issue to keep the natural grass fields green to help prevent player injuries. Orinda's plan is to cut back on the watering that may be less noticeable in city-owned medians and planted areas. In addition, they have asked staff to be extra prudent with water usage in city buildings.

Moraga has a similar plan – to modify the watering cycle for town-owned landscaping and turn off the toddler-friendly water feature in the Commons Park. It was installed in 2009; adding a re-circulation component at that time to the “circle” would have doubled the cost, said Jay Ingram, director of Parks and Recreation, so the water used just goes

down the drain. It was shut off in November for the winter and would normally be turned back on in the middle of May. He acknowledges it's not a popular choice, due to its use by little ones during the warm summer months, but something had to go. Ingram adds that during the Thursday evening summer concert series, it can be continually running while the park is full of families and kids enjoying the show. The Biondi fountain near the Commons parking area will also be shut off.

“We've been installing and using water efficiency methods for quite some time,” said Jennifer Russell, director of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Lafayette. “We have installed low-flow toilets, drought tolerant native plantings, and automatic shut-offs on our public restroom sinks. EMBUD sends reports that congratulate us on our wise use of water and indicate we use 75 percent of what they determine to be the amount of water we can use given our acreage.” Automatic shut off valves for all the landscaping irrigation at Lafayette Community Park and Buckeye Fields will be installed in the near future by park maintenance staff.

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- "Fall Prevention And Balance"  
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- "The Not-So-Sweet Truth About Sugar"  
*Susie Garcia, Nutrition For Your Lifestyle*
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**Civic News Fire Districts**

**New AEDs for MOFD Area**

... continued from page A9

"I am extremely thankful for the donation," said Moraga's police chief, Bob Priebe, in email comments. "The technologically upgraded AEDs will help us continue to serve our community and save lives. With the one documented AED life-saving incident experienced by MPD, we know the value of this incredible tool," he added.

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel added his thanks to Rescue One. "On some occasions, police are first to respond on a call involving sudden cardiac arrest," Nagel said via email. "Every minute that passes increases the likelihood of brain damage or death to the victim. It's reassuring that officers have state of the art equipment allowing them to apply life saving measures as soon as possible," he said.

Rescue One president Gordon Nathan was at Lee's side during the Moraga presentation. "It takes a while to raise that kind of money," Nathan said, but "it was a real pleasure" making the donation.

AEDs are now available in public places throughout Lamorinda. Pulse Point lists more than 50 AEDs located at sites that include

schools, churches, libraries, fitness clubs, and businesses. Many of those organizations have more than one unit. Using an AED now is simple because the machine talks its user through the entire process, step by step, and volunteers can be alerted when their help is needed by subscribing to the PulsePoint app. When paramedics are dispatched to treat a heart attack victim a notification is sent to CPR-trained PulsePoint subscribers willing to assist via their smartphones. Notifications are only made if the victim is in a public place and only to potential rescuers in the immediate vicinity,

primarily within walking distance. The LP 1000 AEDs are equipped with the newest operating protocols and energy delivery and are particularly suited to survive rough handling in the field, but the older AED models are still serviceable. Now that the police departments have new AEDs, the older devices will be placed at locations around Lamorinda that are currently without an AED. Lee considers the older AEDs "placeholders," to be used until additional funds can be raised and more new models can be purchased.

**Learn to use an AED;** watch this You Tube video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtlbTe\\_fgTE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtlbTe_fgTE).

**Rescue One**, established in 1977, is California's first citizen-inspired foundation working to support a fire district/paramedic program. To learn more about Rescue One, visit <http://www.mofd.org/about/rescueone>.

**PulsePoint** <http://pulsepoint.org/app/#sthash.UUe5Qowi.dpuf> is available for download in the Apple App Store or in Android Apps on Google Play. (Read the related article about the PulsePoint app in our archive, <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0720/Information-Age-Emergency-Monitoring.html>.)

**Lamorinda AED Locations**

- Acalanes High School (3)
  - Acalanes Union High School District
  - 24 Hour Fitness, Moraga
  - California Insurance Center
  - Campolindo High School (4)
  - Canyon Post Office
  - Lafayette Community Center (3)
  - Core Kinetics, Orinda
  - EBMUD (5)
  - Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
  - Lafayette Care Center
  - Miramonte High School (3)
  - Moraga Country Club (2)
  - Moraga Police Department
  - Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
  - Oakwood Athletic Club (3)
  - Orinda Community Center
  - Orinda Country Club (5)
  - Orinda Library
  - Orinda Senior Village
  - Orinda Woods
  - Pine Grove Office Complex (3)
  - St. Mary's College (4)
  - St. Monica Catholic Church
  - St. Perpetua Catholic Church (2)
  - Temple Isaiah
  - Town Hall Theater
  - Wagner Ranch School
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Photo Cathy Dausman

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# Writing Groups Bring Out the Book in People

By Chris Lavin



Gloria Lenhart critiques a chapter from Jack Champlin's maritime novel at their regular writers' group at the Lafayette Library. Photo Chris Lavin

Writing can be a lonely exercise. Pour a cup of coffee, pull out the keyboard, and wait for inspiration to strike. But it doesn't have to be.

"Writing can be very social," said Raelene Van Horn, who for more than a year has run two groups at the Lafayette Library that focus on children's books. "It can be fun."

Throughout the area, writers are meeting regularly over coffee or elsewhere – at least six groups meet regularly at the Lafayette Library in space provided by Friends of the Library – to review each others' work, and to make suggestions and provide encouragement. Some groups focus on adult fiction or non-fiction, others on genres such as young adult.

"When you meet someone face-to-face every month or every week, you are dedicated to writing," Van Horn said. It provides writers with deadlines that aren't self-imposed, and keeps writers writing. "And you become a better writer from critiquing other people's work."

Here's how they work: Six or fewer writers agree to meet at a regular time at a regular place. Meeting rooms at a library work, or a coffee shop. Group leaders agree that having more than six writers doesn't work; one meeting wouldn't provide enough time for meaningful critiques.

"We have three or four core people," Van Horn said. "Other writers have come and gone. We had one person who came and was amazed at how much time the writers put in to critiquing her work – she couldn't believe it. She wasn't up to putting the time in."

A few days before the meet-up –

the group leader decides the deadline – writers with new or revised work either email their submissions to the entire group, or use a service on the cloud, such as Dropbox or Google Docs, to submit to their peers. Usually the submission is limited to 10 double-spaced pages. Group members mark up the work, and the writers take them home after the critique.

"There isn't time to go through more than 60 pages per meeting," said Gloria Lenhart of Lafayette, who has been leading writing groups for years. Lenhart is the author of "Planet Widow" (Seal Press 2006). Now she is writing a historical novel set at the turn of the century in San Francisco, and also recently completed a successful Kickstarter campaign to publish a series of guidebooks that focus on San Francisco's most famous neighborhoods. Her writer's groups have critiqued them both.

"My writing wouldn't exist unless I had my writing groups," Lenhart said. "Reading other people's work and hearing what other people think makes an enormous difference. Sometimes I find that I miss something major, or the suggestions I get make it so much better. But you don't have to use the suggestions, either. It's always good to hear whether what you're working on is working or not."

"Sometimes it takes me longer to make revisions than it did to write the darn thing in the first place," said Jack Champlin of Lafayette, who has attended one of Lenhart's groups for more than a year. Champlin also is writing a historical novel, a maritime tale laced with black magic. "I find if I don't make the changes right away, I lose a lot of it."

Lenhart is quick to point out that writing groups aren't for everyone.

"We've had people come once and not come back," she said. "Sometimes it's too much for them. You have to have a thick skin. I think we do a really good job of being kind with our critiques – no one is going to say, 'This is a piece of crap!' But some people have a hard time taking any criticism at all."

Conversely, sometimes the group doesn't fit with a new writer.

"There's definitely a dynamic to a writer's group," Lenhart said. "What we try to do now if we have an opening is let the writer know there's a tryout period. I'll tell them, 'Let's meet a few times, see how you like it, and we'll decide whether it's going to be a good fit for us, too.' It can be hard to tell someone they're not quite the fit we're looking for. But people have to be willing to hear that. There's nothing more frustrating than making the same suggestion over and over again, and the writer keeps submitting the same piece with nothing changed. That just doesn't work."

And people in Lafayette's groups are getting published. Aline Soules wrote "Meditation on Woman" (Anaphor Literary Press 2011), and Corina Vacco's young adult novel, "My Chemical Mountain" (Random House 2013) was hatched in a Lafayette group.

To inquire about writing groups for adult fiction and non-fiction, or young adult, you may email Lenhart to get on a waiting list for one of her groups at glorialenhardt@comcast.net. The same goes for children's books and picture books with Van Horn, who can be reached at rdvanhorn@yahoo.com.

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# The Complete Package

Orinda Union School District's 2014-15 Teacher of the Year

By Diane Claytor



Del Rey Elementary School teacher Tricia Newhart works with some of her first grade students. Photo provided

Long after the bell has rung and the 20 first graders in Tricia Newhart's class have left for the weekend, the room still radiates energy. Colorful drawings are strung across the room, the walls hold more drawings, three-dimensional bridges constructed from K'Nex, writings and math work; remnants of an art project litter the floor and books tumble off the crowded shelves. Sitting here in what is probably the first quiet moment of the day, one senses that these Del Rey Elementary School students are not only well taught, but well loved.

Newhart, a Lafayette resident, was one of four teachers from the Lamorinda area nominated to represent their districts in the 2014-15 Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year competition. She has been teaching in Orinda for 24 years, the last four of which have been at Del Rey. Listening to her speak, you know that she is definitely doing what she was meant to do. "Teaching fulfills me," she said. "It feeds my soul. Just as an artist paints because that's what she needs to do, teaching is what makes me complete."

It was Newhart's fourth grade teacher who inspired her to follow the same path. "She believed in me," Newhart noted, "seeing the potential in a not so confident little girl. I will always remember her warmth and the high expectations she had for her stu-

dents. I strive to be a positive influence in students' lives just as she was in mine."

Born in Portugal, Newhart's father was in the military and the family moved around a lot. She found her way to California where she attended both UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara, earning her master's degree in speech and hearing. In the 24 years she's been in Orinda, Newhart has taught first, 1-2 splits and fourth grades as well as served as a district literacy coach, working with K-2 teachers. But she missed the classroom. "The kids are what give me my sense of joy," she said, so she returned to her first love.

Kirsten Theurer, Del Rey's principal, said it's obvious that Newhart simply loves teaching and "brings a passion ... that is contagious. When you walk into her first grade classroom the energy is palpable."

Newhart focuses on teaching kids to be internally motivated and develop a sense of wonderment and curiosity as well as an attitude of gratitude. "One of the reasons we're here," she explained, "is to make a difference. I share this with my students by teaching them to respect themselves as well as others, to take pride in their work and to always give their best effort. I want them to know that they have the power to make positive changes in the world."

Newhart, who is soft-spoken and

laughs easily, said that "teaching is food for the soul and the intellect. It provides one person the opportunity to touch many lives at an age when values and beliefs are being developed. Being in the classroom is a daily reminder to wonder, to laugh and to cultivate gratitude. I love going to work every day."

Contra Costa County began recognizing outstanding teachers in 1972, establishing the Teachers of the Year program, which is directed by the Contra Costa County Office of Education. It is open to all K-12 teachers in public and private schools. The selection process involves both in-person observations of the nominees by a committee of education specialists followed by a personal interview with each of the district's Teacher of the Year representatives.

Lamorinda Weekly hopes to feature Moraga School District Teacher of the Year representative Ann Ralph of Donald Rheem Elementary School and Lafayette School District representative Olivia Vann of Springhill Elementary School in upcoming issues. The Acalanes Union High School District Educator of the Year, Jane Kelson, was featured in the March 12 issue. To view the story, go to [http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/arc\\_hive/issue0801/Campo-Science-Teacher-Named-AUHSD-Educator-of-the-Year.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/arc_hive/issue0801/Campo-Science-Teacher-Named-AUHSD-Educator-of-the-Year.html).

## 2014 California Distinguished Schools Announced

Five Lamorinda elementary schools named

Submitted by Jonathan Lance

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson recently named 24 Contra Costa County elementary schools as California Distinguished Schools for 2014, "for their strong commitment and innovative approaches to improving student academic achievement." The following Lamorinda elementary schools were included in the list: Del Rey, Glorietta, Lafayette, Sleepy Hollow, and Wagner Ranch. "I applaud these strong, thriving schools that are making such impressive strides in preparing their students for continued success," Torlakson adds. "This award is well-deserved by these school communities for their enduring dedication to high standards,

hard work, and unwavering support."

The program recognizes elementary and secondary schools in alternating years. Distinguished Schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria, including designated federal and state accountability measures, and they must provide an in-depth description of two Signature Practices that their staff members believe have contributed to the success of their students. Following the acceptance of their application, each school receives a site visit by a team of local educators to validate the full implementation of the Signature Practices described in the application.

In Contra Costa County, those school visits were conducted in

March and early April by a team of 19 educators from the Contra Costa County Office of Education, augmented by 18 school district administrators, and four retired district administrators. The County Distinguished Schools program is coordinated by Peggy Marshburn, chief communications officer, Contra Costa County Office of Education.

Distinguished Schools are honored at regional award ceremonies, where the state superintendent of California Public Instruction presents each school with a 2014 Distinguished School plaque and flag. The events and awards are funded by donations from many California corporations and statewide-educational organizations.

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# Finding the Writer's Voice

Orinda's 2014 Youth Ink winners

By Laurie Snyder



Three of Orinda's youngest authors could barely contain their excitement April 24 when learning they were the winners of Youth Ink 2014. From left: Lindsay Kornguth (second place), Sarah Inouye (first place), Katie Lyons (third place). Photos Ohlen Alexander

"All serious daring starts within." – Eudora Welty, "On Writing"

A few voices rang strongly through the Orinda Library Auditorium on April 24. Most were barely audible, forcing parents, teachers, friends, and neighbors to lean forward, straining valiantly to catch snippets of the powerful prose penned by 13 sixth to eighth grade students. Participants in this year's Youth Ink Writing competition, many of the girls present had dared to address soul-shattering grief and the growth that comes from rising above loss – the loss of a pet, a peer's respect, one's physical functioning, friends and loved ones.

"Then I remembered all the teasing, bullying," wrote one. "Life can't go on forever, but death sure can," observed another. The softest of voices seemed to pack the most punch. Adults in the nearly full auditorium found themselves meditating on the meaning of life.

Youth Ink is organized each year by the Orinda Junior Women's Club (www.orindajuniors.org), recipient of Orinda's 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award for efforts to provide volunteer support and raise funds annually for a diverse range of East Bay programs, including aging and end-of-life services, hospitals, the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Action Day, Haley's Run for a Cause, the Lamorinda Fourth of July Parade, Shelter, Inc., and STAND! Against Domestic Violence.

Any one of those causes would be

laudable enough for any respected public service organization, but in many ways, the Youth Ink competition is one of the most important programs presented each year by the Juniors because the contest not only helps emerging writers to find that elusive voice inside, but enables each of those same authors to courageously stand before their peers and confidently say, "My voice matters. I won't be silenced."

The guest speaker for the 2014 awards ceremony was Orinda resident Tamara Ireland Stone, author of the companion novels "Time Between Us" and "Time After Time" (tamarairelandstone.com). Currently working on her third novel, her work is published by Disney-Hyperion, and now appears in more than 20 countries. "I write," she said, "because, throughout my life, words have been my best friends." She spoke of the power of words to save readers, and the responsibility of writers to use their skills to better, rather than weaken the world.

Youth Ink also receives support each year from the Friends of the Orinda Library, Orinda Books, Orinda Community Foundation, and the Orinda Library. Judges in 2014 were Hummingwords founder and Amherst Writers and Artists Method workshop leader Cynthia Leslie-Bole; 2013 California Book Award winner Melanie Light; Intuitive Writing Project founder Elizabeth Perlman; and Jana Rains, author of "Muriel Robbin's Fact Book."

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### Youth Ink Winners 2014

- First Prize: Sarah Inouye – "Listen"
- Second Prize: Lindsay Kornguth – "A Prisoner in My Own Body"
- Third Prize: Katie Lyons – "Why Did I Listen"
- Honorable Mention (alphabetical order):  
Isabella Bianchi – "Listen to My Heart"  
Alexandra Gallagher – "Walking the Stairs to Death"

- Sage Kang – "Don't Judge a Fish"
- Janet Lee – "For the World to Hear"
- Angeline Liu – "Learning to Listen"
- Alexandra Reinecke – "Claim on Forever"
- Hannah Simmonds – "Goodbye"
- Lauren Staelin – "Heartstrings"
- Lynn Wilder – "Goodbye"
- Zoe Zabetian – "The Silent Room"



The talented writing tribe of Youth Ink 2014. From left, back row: Isabella Bianchi, Lindsay Kornguth, Katie Lyons, Tamara Ireland Stone (young adult author and Youth Ink awards guest speaker), Alexandra Reinecke, Lynn Wilder, Janet Lee, Angeline Liu, Hannah Simmonds; front: Alexandra Gallagher, Sarah Inouye, Sage Kang, Lauren Staelin; not pictured: Zoe Zabetian.

## Special Olympics at Acalanes

By Cathy Tyson



Springhill Elementary School had 32 athletes participate in the recent Bay Area Games.

Photos Cathy Tyson

Over 550 student athletes from around the Bay Area have been training for weeks to prepare for the third annual Bay Area Games held at Acalanes High School sponsored by Special Olympics Northern California. Setting the stage with music, dignitaries, passing of the flame of hope to light the cauldron, Acalanes cheerleaders, singing of the National Anthem, and more, Special Olympics Northern California CEO Rick Collett welcomed everyone saying, "Special Olympics changes lives, and

seeks to create a more fit and tolerant community." It takes more than a village to put on an event of this scale, a team effort with 150 Acalanes students and others serving as volunteers helped make it all possible. Many members of the Acalanes track team participated as volunteers, along with students who are involved in the Best Buddy program who meet with their buddy every Thursday at lunchtime.

"It's so much fun, we really learn a lot," said Hanna Roberts of her buddy Logan Casey. The event

kicked off with the first ever race that featured "Unified Partners" where students with and without disabilities come together as teammates – to promote living and playing inclusively.

Nearby Springhill Elementary had 32 athletes participating in the friendly track and field competition. Special Ed teacher Erin Caldwell said her students had six weeks of practice and competed in three events that included throwing, running and jumping to build confidence and self-esteem.



From left: Tess Olsson, Hanna Roberts, Logan Casey and Serena Candelori.

## Town Hall Theatre's New Director and New Season

By Sophie Braccini



Town Hall Theatre's new artistic director, Joel Roster with Jenny Wehrmeister, THT's new director of education. Photo Sophie Braccini

Town Hall Theatre board president Betsy Streeter is very comfortable with Joel Roster's nomination as THT's new artistic director. Nine months ago, Derrick Silva was appointed to replace long-standing director Clive Worsley, but Streeter acknowledged that although Silva is a talented director and actor who brought many good things to the theater, the fit was not there.

"Joel comes from the ranks. We had offered him the job when Clive left, but he said he was not ready; we are very happy he accepted this time," she stated. "We are a real family."

To replace him as director of the popular education program the board chose Jenny Wehrmeister. "Jenny is a natural," said Streeter. "She is the most infectious person and can just light you up. She is also very organized and has been working for the program with Joel for some years." Roster and Wehrmeister got married at THT just a few months ago.

Roster exuded energy and passion as he described his first season as artistic director at THT, scheduled to open in September with the musical comedy "Company" that received 14

Tony Award nominations and six wins. Roster acknowledged that the return of musicals to the main stage was one of Silva's ideas. "It is more expensive to do musicals," he admitted. "The play rights are two to three times higher, and you need a music director and musicians. But people love musicals and the one we chose has been a trailblazer since it opened."

A self-proclaimed night owl, Roster loves to get up early to get a lot of things done; as a result the theater is his second home. Born to two actors, the young director remembers his first theatrical experience at age 4 when he saw his father in "Fiddler on the Roof." He acted throughout high school and started being paid for it before graduation. While taking classes at DVC he earned more roles and became a fulltime actor, and soon after, a director. He has worked at THT for 12 years.

Backed by an enthusiastic board, Roster is planning what he calls a ground-breaking season with four shows that include the musical as well as a Pulitzer Prize winner. "The shows are very different, they are all inspiring and are told a little bit differ-

ently than what people might be used to," commented Roster. The second show opens in December: "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play."

"It is the sweetest interpretation of that story," said Roster, who saw the show at the Marin Theatre Company last year. "It is for the whole family and it is also a very good play." He added that the script does no harm to Frank Capra's beloved movie, but adds a level of nostalgia. The third show, "Angels in America," was awarded the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

"This is a big year for us at Town Hall," said Roster, "marking the 100th anniversary of the building and the 70th anniversary of theater being played here. I wanted a play that would mark this moment."

He first thought of "Our Town," but the timing wasn't right since it will be performed at the same time on the other side of the tunnel. "Angels" is not an easy play. It is an epic story about the United States in the early 1980s when the AIDS epidemic was killing hundreds of thousands of people and America began to embrace its gay population. "I talked with Clive (Worsley) about this play, and at first he thought that our audience was not ready for it," admitted Roster, "but then he thought about it and agreed with me."

The fourth show, "Moon Over Buffalo," is a light comedy by Ken Ludwig that has been very well received everywhere it has played and praised as wildly funny.

The last show of the 2013-14 season will be Bernard Shaw's "Candida," which will open at Town Hall Theatre May 24.

For more information, visit [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com).

## History Comes to Life for Moraga Third Graders

By Sophie Braccini



Mary Ostrander, in her 100th year, talks to school children about life growing up on a dairy farm. Photo Sophie Braccini

When Mary Ostrander talks to third graders about life on a dairy farm at the beginning of the 20th century, she speaks from experience. The soon to be 100-year-old, who still drives her red car from Moraga Royale to the library where she volunteers with the Historical Society, loves telling incredulous youngsters of a time with no Internet, television or washing machines, when women daily cleaned the kerosene lamps that gave light at night and butter was made by hand.

"When I was a little girl, we milked our five cows, put the milk in a pail, then poured it in a separator," Ostrander told the children, "then my brother and I would collect the cream; my father would take it to the creamery where it would be churned into butter." Every morning, fresh milk from the Moraga Valley would be taken by carts to what is now Emeryville and shipped to San Francisco. She showed the children the big catalogues that people received in the mail where they could find everything from a woodstove to the metal irons that had to be warmed on the stove, to feed for animals.

Ostrander's talk was part of an historical field trip for Moraga elementary school children that took them from prehistoric times to when the railroad track ended in 1957. The presentation was divided into five sections: first, Kathy Zuber talked about prehistoric Moraga when mastodons, bigger than mammoths, roamed the hills. Later in the day, the children went to Bollinger Canyon and observed the geological strata that formed over millennium. Then Pam Williams discussed the Saklan Indian civilization and their way of life in the East Bay settlements, which were forever disturbed by the arrival of the Spaniards. She talked about the land grant in 1835 of 13,000 acres, roughly what is now Lamorinda and Canyon, given to Joaquin Moraga and his cousin Juan Bernal. The children

viewed from afar the original adobe home that Joaquin Moraga built for his family.

Susan Sperry continued the presentation, talking about how Moraga lost most of his money and land in a legal dispute between miners who didn't find gold, but instead came to squat the land. She also talked about the time Canyon had more registered voters than any other town in California because of the rowdy lumberjacks who cut all the redwoods to construct the beautiful San Francisco mansions. Then Sam Sperry told the children about how James Irvine converted most of the cattle ranches into pear and walnut orchards, and how the Sacramento Northern railroad that was in operation between 1913 and 1957 transported the pear crops and made Moraga the capital of Bartlett pears.

As part of their tour, the children also visited the Moraga Ranch, which used to be a settlement for the orchards' workers, and the Hacienda de las Flores built by Donald Rheem in the late '50s.

"It is a very well organized field trip," said Ann Ralph who teaches third grade at Donald Rheem Elementary School. "We count on the parents to drive the children around, and on the volunteers to tell all the stories. Over the years we've created a little packet that the children have to carry around and answer questions, adding accountability in a fun way." For Rheem School the field trip is the introduction of the social studies unit on local history.

"Before 1999 we used to go to classrooms to present the information to the kids," added Historical Society volunteer Elsie Mastick. "Our hope is that enough money will be raised to purchase and preserve the Moraga Adobe and that it will be the central point for the historical days, for children in Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette."

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# Lamorinda's Specialties of the House

## Afternoon treats for Mother's Day – or any day at all

By Amanda Kuehn



Mango Italian ice at Chillers in Orinda Photos Amanda Kuehn

nation of cream and caffeine. SiSi's is located at 910 Country Club Drive, Moraga. For information, call (925) 377-1908.

When the weather is warm, Chillers in Orinda is the place to go for an afternoon cool off. Chillers specializes in smoothies, the most popular of which is the Rockin' Raspberry, a cool combination of raspberry juice, bananas, strawberries and orange sherbert. The Tropical Passion is a personal favorite of owner Mark Callahan. They also serve Italian water ice, a crisp, refreshing treat made purely of fruit juice and water. "It's sort of a novelty in the area," Callahan said of the East Coast specialty that contains half the sugar of normal sorbet. Chillers' water ice comes from Flavor Brigade in Oakland and comes in six flavors, including mango, strawberry lemonade and rootbeer. Chillers is located at 21 Orinda Way. For information, call (925) 254-3233.

Panache owner Young Yoon cuts no corners when it comes to the quality of her ingredients. "We are the best," attests the Korean native and former pastry chef. "We buy only Italian ingredients." Since Yoon took over seven years ago, Panache has served Umbria coffee and Illy espresso, high quality ingredients that make for rich and smooth specialty drinks. The most popular is the vanilla latte, which is served with the flair of a creamy foam leaf or a latte art heart. Panache also serves boba, or bubble tea, a Taiwanese tea-based drink that comes in various flavors and consistencies and features round chewy balls of tapioca. "It's my family drink," said Yoon, who first began serving boba at a French bakery in Walnut Creek. There have been a handful of boba places in the Lamorinda area, but Panache is the only one left. Unlike the powdered mix you find in other bobas, Panache brews their tea and cooks fresh tapioca every hour. Their most popular variety is the vanilla black tea milk boba, though you can also get your boba drink blended or over ice. This reporter's taro almond milk boba made for a special treat that was simultaneously sweet and silky, cool and chewy. Panache is located at 3653 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. For info, call (925) 284-7232.

Look for more Specialties of the House features in upcoming issues. Buen apetito!

Many think of brunch as a great way to give mom a break around Mother's Day, but an afternoon treat could be equally fun, giving mom a quick pick-me-up or a break between school pickup and supper time. From iced lattes to ice cream sundaes, hibiscus lemonade to the perfect pastry, the Lamorinda area offers plenty of options when it comes to delicious treats. This week we're highlighting just a few.

At Papillon Quality Gourmet Coffees in Lafayette, there are dozens of delicate teas and specialty coffee drinks of all types and flavors. Their signature drink is the Papillon mocha—European chocolate and espresso blended with steamed milk and topped with real whipped cream and ground chocolate. I had my creamy concoction poured over ice. Not as sweet as a traditional mocha, the flavor is richer and smoother, making it a great afternoon treat. Papillon is located at 67 Lafayette Circle. For information, call (925) 283-0466.

If you're in the mood for something sweet, Cake is your answer to indulgence. From a butter cake with lemon-infused buttercream frosting to chewy layers of macaroon layered with chocolate ganache, Cake specializes in using organic, local, fresh ingredients. Their most popular item, though, according to Patrick Quinn, husband of pastry chef Andrea Quinn, isn't a cake at all, but their signature coconut macaroons, which are sold in retail stores from Capitola to San Helena and at Diablo Foods. You can purchase a six-pack of these sweet treats straight from the source in La Fiesta Square. Cake is located at 35 Lafayette Circle in Lafayette. For info, visit cakelafayette.com or call (925) 385-0202.

Sisi's Caffe in Moraga has "the best latte in town" according to their business cards. They also offer a variety of ice creams, smoothies, lemonades and milkshakes, which are popular with local children, according to 3-year-barista Megan Verrips. "I'd say 80 percent of our customers are regulars," said Verrips, who has tried nearly every beverage the neighborhood cafe has to offer. "I come here on my days off just to get coffee," she remarked. Though tempted by the green tea matcha frappe, I opted for a vanilla almond milk iced latte, which was smooth and slightly sweet, a perfect combi-



Iced mocha from Papillon in Lafayette



Coconut macaroons at Cake in Lafayette

# Mother's Day

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## Burton Valley Students Return to Mural Site for Earth Day

Submitted by Mimi Bupp



To commemorate Earth Day, former students from Kyrá Rodriguez's and Mimi Bupp's second grade class at Burton Valley Elementary School gathered in late April at the site of a mural they painted two years ago. "In 2012 ..., our second grade class painted drawings of animals that live in California on a building wall outside of our classroom," wrote Burton Valley fourth-grader JoJo Bishop. "The reason we painted it was to learn all about the animals we have in California and to have fun! Also, before we painted the pictures we had written all about the animals we painted. We learned so much about them from our teachers Mrs. Bupp and Mrs. Rodriguez. We all had a really fun and great time doing it!" The mural lives on as a legacy to what they learned that year.

Photo submitted

## Water the Focus of JM's Earth Week Celebration

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's Not."*  
— Dr. Seuss, "The Lorax"

By Hillary Hoppock



JM Students commit to everyday changes to help the earth.

Photos provided

"Water - Don't Waste It" was the theme for the fourth annual Earth Week Celebration at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Sponsored by the school's ECO club (Environmental Conservation Organization), the club's 25 student members planned, organized and ran lunchtime activities for the entire campus during Earth Week April 16-22, to spread the message to save water, recycle and watch out for our planet.

More than 80 students participated daily in a (W) water relay race, (A) Tie Dye Art, (T) treasure hunt, (E) education video and a (R) Reduce/Recycle Pledge. Teams of students raced to be first to fill a bucket with the drippings from a sponge in a water relay; watched "The Story of Bottled Water" video about the energy used to create and dispose of bottled water containers; answered questions about water resources and conservation in a treasure hunt; re-used and decorated "old" t-shirts with tie-dye; and pledged to take action to "save water" and be "environmentally conscious in their everyday lives."

At the end of the week, students signed pledges to "ride my bike to school," "bring a reusable bottle every day," "compost instead of throwing food away," and placed them on a pledge banner outside the school office. One sixth grade girl confessed, "I said I would take 5 minute showers and that is going to be hard, because I usually shower for at least 10 minutes." She hesitated, "But I'm going to try!"

The ECO club is serious about its mission to help the environment. For the past three years they have participated in Allied Waste's food composting diversion program, staffing three

campus ECO stations with teachers and club members helping JM's 650 students sort their daily lunchtime trash. The food waste is used to generate energy to power EBMUD plants. Per week 300 pounds of food waste has been diverted from the landfill, with a total of 34,200 pounds of food waste recycled in the three years of the program at JM.

The district's savings from one less commercial trash pickup every month has allowed JM's ECO Club to fund a Hydration Station, which has filled student's re-usable bottles to the equivalent of 21,500 plastic water bottles since its installation in 2012. All-school assemblies to educate students about environmental concerns and investments in energy-saving materials for the school site have also been funded by the savings.

The JM ECO club is an investment in the future, fueled by the energy of students and teachers at JM where during Earth Week and every week, "every drop counts!"



At JM the water buckets used for the relay were, of course, reused to water the JM Garden after the race.



"Old" T-shirts renewed with tie-dye dry in the sun during JM's Earth Week.

# Local Mom Takes the Stage

Lafayette writer reads essay on being cool – for a mom

By Jennifer Wake



Francie Low

Photo provided

Lafayette blogger/writer Francie Low was one of 11 winners of the “Listen to Your Mother” essay contest that landed her an opportunity to take her essay about motherhood “from the page to the stage” at the Brava Theater Center in San Francisco May 3. “It’s like an American Idol for writers, at a local level; 32 cities across the nation are doing the same thing, all around Mother’s Day,” says Low. A portion of the proceeds went towards the charity, Chicks in Crisis.

“It’s not every day a writer goes live, reading their work to a ticket-paying audience in the name of charity,” Low writes on her blog at shoezle.com, so named, she says, by her hubby’s polite nod to Low’s endless shoe col-

lection dominating their closet. “Us writers are happy to read aloud to anyone – for free,” writes Low. “Give us a stage and a mic and we feel like Ellen Degeneres for a night.”

Low writes funny, witty posts about the fun and frustrations of motherhood, food, fitness and fashion. She says much of her blog material comes from her two teen boys who have “a bent for parenting the parent and her husband, a cycling and anything-organic enthusiast.” Her winning essay, titled “Cool For A Mom,” describes how “cool” is in the eye of the beholder and how teens can quickly derail any mom’s misconceptions about it.

In the essay, she writes about when she wore a navy sweater sprinkled with “understated jewels” from J. Crew at middle school pick-up and about her 13-year-old’s reply: “‘Get in the car before my friends see me with you in that sweater! Is it new? It looks old.’”

She continues by describing her high-schooler’s response: “As he gets into the car he exclaims, ‘Is that new? When did you get it? It looks old. I don’t like it.’ He sees my new bright yellow tote in the back. ‘Did you get a new purse too?’ He’s practicing to be a husband.”

“Days later,” she writes, “we talk about being cool. I ask the boys, ‘Am I ok? My mom was so not cool.’ At least I don’t remember her that way. And really nobody’s mom was cool like today’s moms. I just can’t imagine I am like my mom. I don’t wear the same orange, polyester no-press pants; mine are black and called yoga pants. I don’t listen to elevator music while I iron handkerchiefs either. My boys’ response, ‘You are cool for a mom. You are not cool for a teenager.’ I can live with that.”

Low says she was honored to be in the San Francisco cast of “Listen to Your Mother” and was equally honored on behalf of her own mother, who inspired her to write with wit and humor. You can read more about Low’s experience on her blog at shoezle.com.

# Spring Reveals Itself

Klein Gallery and Parkmon Vineyards collaborate for Art Reception May 9

Submitted by Emily Van Engel



“Catching the Light” by Lynette Cook

Photo provided

Although the change in seasons in California is subtle compared to other parts of the country, there’s still a notable difference in how we take in the world around us when winter transitions to spring. Klein Gallery invites the community to explore these changes through the eyes of several artists in its show “Air and Substance.” The reception is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 9; local winery Parkmon Vineyards will pour wine and jazz trio Flanovo will energize the event with live music.

The show will feature new works of art from six Bay Area artists, including Deborah Ashley, Camille Young, Karen Mason, Lynette Cook, Jennifer Wolpert, and Mary Lou Correia. Collectively, the art focuses on the landscapes, birds and flowers that become prominent during springtime.

“We titled the show ‘Air and Substance’ because it aims to capture the theme of spring, with birds flying, and our heightened connection to feeling the substance of the earth,” said Carrie Klein, owner of Klein Gallery. “I’m just in love with the work coming in for this show; it really inspires

me to pause and feel the warm nourishment of spring.”

Klein Gallery is located in central Lafayette, at 50 Lafayette Circle. Since its opening in October 2013, the gallery has aimed to support Lafayette’s art community in a bigger way. Currently, the gallery partners with local businesses for its opening receptions and donates artwork to the Whole Planet Foundation to support its work in alleviating poverty. The gallery also shares a building with The Art Room, a studio that has been offering clay, painting and mixed media art classes to children and adults for 15 years.

“Partnering with local businesses for our receptions is one way that we’re fostering a larger art community in Lafayette,” Klein said. “And we’re lucky that our location sits us next to an art studio, as the school and gallery complement each other nicely.”

The reception for “Air and Substance” will take place in the gallery, outside as weather permits, and in the classroom spaces at The Art Room where youth art lines the walls.

**Submit stories and story ideas to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)**

# Lamorinda Theatres – A Little for All!

By Derek Zemrak

## “The Amazing Spider-Man 2”



Photo courtesy Columbia Pictures

As Hollywood gears up for the summer blockbuster season, we have a few movies at the Orinda and Rheem theatres for all ages to enjoy. First, swinging into theatres nationwide is “The Amazing Spider-Man 2”

starring British actor Andrew Garfield as Peter Parker/Spider-Man.

You may remember Andrew from his outstanding supporting role in “The Social Network,” which earned him a Golden Globe nomination. I enjoy Andrew in the role of Spider-Man and he holds his own in developing a likable, caring Peter Parker. In this sequel, Spider-Man is facing danger once again in New York as Elector, played by Oscar recipient Jamie Foxx (“Ray”), is on a mission to destroy Spider-Man and everything that stands in his way. Once again, Golden Globe nominee Emma Stone (“Easy A”) returns as Peter’s love interest, Gwen Stacy. Dane De-

Haan (“Kill Your Darling”) delivers a solid performance as Harry Osborn. DeHaan reminds me of a young Leonardo DiCaprio and it will be interesting to follow his career.

Is “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” the best super hero movie this year? No. But it is an enjoyable film that will hold your interest for 2 hours and 22 minutes running time. “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” is rated PG-13 due to violence and it is already spinning large numbers at the box office nationwide – 33 million on opening day.

## “Fading Gigolo”



John Turturro as “Fioravante” and Woody Allen as “Murray” in “Fading Gigolo.” Photo courtesy of Millennium Entertainment

If you are looking for a sophisticated comedy, I highly recommend the independent film, “Fading Gigolo,” written, directed and starring veteran actor and Golden Globe nominee John Turturro (“Quiz Show,” “O Brother, Where Art Thou?,” “The Big Lebowski”). Turturro plays a floral designer who agrees to become a professional Don Juan to help his best friend Murray (Woody Allen) make a few extra dollars. The friends quickly find themselves in a triangle of love and money. The film also co-stars Sharon Stone and Sofia Vergara (“Modern Family”).

In a recent interview with Turturro he explained that he

worked and reworked the script for over a year, while openly taking input and corrective suggestions from the master of “sophisticated comedy” scripts, Woody Allen. When Allen agreed to play the role of Murray, Turturro knew he had something special. Don’t miss this gem of a movie. “Fading Gigolo” opens at the Orinda Theatre Friday, May 9.

“Fading Gigolo” has a fast 90-minute running time with an R rating due to adult themes, sex and language. This comedy is an excellent example of what all independent filmmakers strive for.

Listen to Derek every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on Real to Reel, 1450AM KEST.



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## THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

**App:** BillGuard by BillGuard Inc.  
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**Price:** Free

Most everyone who uses credit cards has had the frustrating experience of seeing charges (called 'grey charges') on their bill that shouldn't be there or aren't recognized. According to U.S. News and World Report, some examples of these grey charges include "... magazine and online game subscriptions, automatic renewals and free services (free-trial) that switched to premium paid services without your knowledge." Surprisingly, these grey charges cost U.S. consumers over \$14 billion annually. However, there is a very simple-to-use app called BillGuard that can help spot these charges quickly. Basically, BillGuard lets you review all your credit card charges on your smartphone whenever you want and, as charges occur on your bill, the app immediately displays them. Based on data collected from its many users, BillGuard will flag charges that members of its network frequently report as unauthorized or questionable. If the charge looks 'ok' to you, just confirm it on the app. If something doesn't look right, it is an easy automated step to instruct BillGuard to contact the merchant for

you. You no longer have to wait for your credit card to be frozen at an inopportune time or for your bill to arrive to find out if someone else is using your charge card. With BillGuard, you can keep close tabs on your credit card activity anytime, anywhere.



Eric is a sophomore at UC Davis, majoring in statistics. He is a member of the UC Davis rugby team, enjoys playing guitar, and is a reporter on the radio show Express Yourself!™

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

# TEEN SCENE

## Overcoming Irritations

By Linda Lan Phung

We all have that one friend or family member who is consistently annoying. He or she borrows your belongings without consent, bumps into you without apologizing, or constantly complains. The issues are sometimes more grave like gossiping about your personal life or whispering secrets.

Recently, a situation arose that I had to address with a friend from middle school. Approaching the topic and the time to talk were challenging. How could I tell her, without offending her, that she hurt me with her behavior and that I wanted her to change?

A Miramonte High School senior who was facing a similar situation with a classmate who was constantly texting her asking for homework instructions suggested to me to "talk to the person and if change doesn't happen, talk again." By responding in a polite manner, the senior was able to resolve her problem by recommending that the student look at the homework agenda.

For an anonymous junior, her father's loud eating habits bothered her. However, she said, "It is better to ignore the little things instead of criticizing something that is not a big deal." She continued, adding, "I do not want to hurt his feelings."

No matter how frustrated or irritated we become, we have to choose our battles. Sometimes the person that aggravates us the most may not even be aware that they are causing a maddening situation.

A freshman friend of mine would text people late at night, without realizing that her friends were already asleep. She said, "One day, one of them bravely told me that my texts woke them up and that I needed to text earlier." Because she was told in a straightforward manner, she was able to alter her texting habits. No ugly confrontation occurred,

and the two continued their friendship. She was able to salvage her other friendships by being more aware of others' lifestyles.

I was able to solve my own issue through talking to my friend, saving a friendship of more than five years. Communication is vital in any kind of relationship. Rather than bottling up feelings, it is better to face conflicts head-on. We also need to be aware that we can't change another person. We only have the power to change our self. It's not what happens to us but how we respond to it that matters. If the issue is not that monumental of an issue, it may be best to just "let it go" but when something is truly egregious, we must confront the problem with diplomacy and tact. As teens, engaging in a constructive conversation is an essential lesson that will help us overcome irritations and maintain positive relationships for a lifetime.



Linda Lan Phung, a Miramonte High School senior who volunteers throughout the East Bay, is an officer with Club Be the Star You Are!®, and strives for 17-second miracles, inspired by author Jason Wright.

Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, [Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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Music fills the air at last year's Concert at the Res.

# Late Spring Fun in Lamorinda

*Three outdoor fairs and festivities bring the community together*

By Sophie Braccini

With May being a month filled with light spring breezes and mild sunny days, there is nothing like an outdoor activity to bring the Lamorinda community together. Whether strolling past the booths and displays at the Moraga Community Faire, enjoying a wide range of music from local bands at the Rotary Concert at the Res, or enjoying food and wine from local restaurants at the Taste of Lafayette, these special spring events showcase what's great about Lamorinda.

Do you remember the time machine that Doc Emmett Brown created in the movie "Back to the Future" from his DeLorean DMC-12 sports car? This year, you will be able to see a similar model at the **Moraga Community Faire** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 10 at the Rheem Shopping Center (time traveling not included). The car belongs to a local resident, who will be displaying it at the Rheem Theatre/California Independent Film Festival booth. Other restored classic cars owned by community members will also be on display.

You can enjoy many other wonderful things at the fair, like meeting with Miss East Bay, listening to new bands that will be performing, visiting new food trucks (including a new twist on Mexican food and healthy options), or making tissue paper flowers for mom at the Lamorinda Weekly booth. There will also be classic fun like the dunk tank and games for children, including a climbing wall, Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO experience, carnival games, a bounce house, and informative booths featuring local merchants, community groups and even town staff.

"Just in time for Mother's Day, there will be opportunities to buy art, crafts and jewelry from a wide range of artists and taste a variety of wines made by five local wineries, members of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association," says Ellen Beans, who for many years has worked to coordinate the volunteers who put on the fair.

On the same Saturday, the **Rotary Concert at the Res** will feature eight bands from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The concert, hosted by the Lafayette Rotary, will take place on the new Lafayette Reservoir stage, which was built by the organization.

This annual concert has raised money to supply Lamorinda and Bay Area schools with new instruments for their music programs. This year's event includes legendary Bob Athayde conducting the Stanley Symphonic Band, the Stanley Concert Gold Band, and the Concert Green Band all together; Mo Levich (recent Jefferson Award recipient) leading the Big Band of Rossmoor; Norm Dea directing the Acalanes High School Symphonic Band; and Brian Pardo at the helm of the Bentley Jazz Ensemble. A special highlight this year is the performance by Dominant 7, a jazz ensemble including students from Acalanes High School and Stanley Middle School.

The event will be a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy the beautiful surroundings, and maybe a picnic. Food and beverages will be sold close to the concert, the location is found east (to your left) towards the reservoir trail. The Stage is about 150 feet from the parking lot.

On the evening of May 20,

Lafayette will feature one of its most popular community events: **Taste of Lafayette**. "The chefs are choosing Lafayette to open their shops because they know that what they do will be appreciated here," says Lafayette Chamber of Commerce executive director Jay Lifson. "Lafayette has become a destination for dining. But first and foremost, the Taste is an opportunity to break bread and share wine with friends; it's a great night out for the community and a great culinary experience."

The event kicks off at 5:30 p.m. with wine and appetizers at Lafayette Plaza.

"Cake, Dave's Cuisine, Il Giradino, Lafayette Park Bistro, Green Lantern Catering Co., La Boulange, Millie's Kitchen, Peet's Gourmet Coffee and Indian restaurant T's Fire House (opening soon behind Kelly Moore on Mt. Diablo Boulevard) will provide an amazing variety of appetizers on the Plaza," says Lifson. Then from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. more than 20 restaurants will be offering samples.

Some of the newest eateries like The Cooperage will offer tastes of their creations, as well as estab-

lished restaurants like Chevalier and even new restaurants, like American Kitchen, which is slated to open in the charming cottage where La Patisserie used to be on Lafayette Circle.

"As in previous years, people can either walk or take a shuttle,"

promises Lifson. Then at 8:30 p.m. it is back to the Plaza for dessert, coffee and a raffle. Tickets are \$45 if purchased before May 9; \$50 per person after. To purchase tickets, visit [www.lafayettechamber.org/events/aste-of-lafayette/](http://www.lafayettechamber.org/events/aste-of-lafayette/).



Folks line up to enjoy food and wine at last year's Taste of Lafayette.



This DeLorean DMC-12, similar to the one from the movie "Back to the Future" will be on display at the Moraga Community Faire May 10.

## Second Friday Debut

The public is invited to a pair of receptions on the second Friday of the month starting on May 9, then again on June 13, called coincidentally "Second Fridays" at the Lafayette Art Gallery to celebrate new works and featured artists. At their new location in the historic Forge, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. everyone is invited to meet the artists, have a glass of wine and "feast your eyes on a dazzling array of fine art," said Geoffrey Meredith, artist and spokesperson for Gallery. Their spacious, airy new space on Mt. Diablo Boulevard near Brown Avenue will showcase selected artists each month. Look for Pat Prosek, printmaker, Debby Koonce, painter, and Polly Bradbury, glass artist at the event in May. The talent of the Lafayette Art Gallery's circle of artists will be on display in the stunning selection of works to be exhibited during "Virtuosity Goes Viral," the gallery's May/June show. For more information, check their website at [www.lafayetteartgallery.com](http://www.lafayetteartgallery.com). C. Tyson



# LAFAYETTE ROTARY'S CONCERT AT THE RES

SATURDAY, MAY 10 11AM - 3PM

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIRS' NEW STAGE

ACALANES JAZZ ENSEMBLE ~ BENTLEY JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
 STANLEY INTERMEDIATE SYMPHONIC BAND  
 WESTLAKE INTERMEDIATE SYMPHONIC BAND  
 TOWN HALL TROUPE ~ LAMORINDA THEATRE ACADEMY  
 DOMINANT 7 JAZZ ENSEMBLE ~ ROSSMOOR BIG BAND

**FOOD & RAFFLE TICKETS TO SUPPORT LAFAYETTE SCHOOLS & ROTARY PROJECTS**

*thank you to our sponsors*

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 Lafayette Car Wash and Detail Center  
 Lafayette Chamber of Commerce ~ Mechanics Bank  
 Minuteman Press ~ Oakwood Athletic Club  
 Orchard Nursery ~ O'Brien Homes ~ Lamorinda Weekly



## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### WILLOW SPRING CHURCH

Your Hometown Community Church

Try Something New With Your Whole Family This Week  
**Sundays:** 9:00am Adult Sunday School Classes  
 10:00am Pre-Service Fellowship (Free Coffee & Bagels)  
 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service  
 11:15am Childrens' Church  
**Wednesdays:** 10:00am Community Bible Study  
 1689 School Street, Moraga (925)376-3550  
 www.willowsspringchurch.net

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
 www.holy shepherd.org



Worship Services 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.  
 9:40 a.m. Education  
 Coffee Fellowship at 9:15 & 11:45 a.m.  
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger  
 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS MAY 18  
 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m.  
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

### SAINT GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."  
 - Isaiah 56:7; Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17



9:00am Sunday School & Service  
 at Saint Mary's College Chapel  
 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga

Saint Giles is an Inclusive & Affirming Community...All are Welcome!

www.stgiles-moraga.org ~ 925-376-5770

### The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,  
 284-4765, office@thelumc.org

|                              |        |       |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Worship                      | Sunday | 10 am |
| Children/Youth Sunday School | Sunday | 10 am |
| Youth Fellowship             | Sunday | 6 pm  |



► Sunday Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 AM,  
 with programs for 3-mos.-12th grade.

► Seedlings Preschool, M-F.  
 ► Something for Everyone,  
 speakers, small groups, classes,  
 youth groups, mission trips, more!

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

See more at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am  
 Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
 Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org



Worship the Lord!  
 Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga CA  
 www.mvpcctoday.org • 925-376-4800



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
 254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org  
 Sunday 8am, 10am &  
 5:30p.m. Casual Eucharist

## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**Moraga Art Gallery's current show, "Illuminated by Nature,"** featuring paintings by Kerima Swain and Karen Kramer will run through May 31. The Gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays - Sundays, and is located at 522 Center St., Rheem Valley Shopping Center, Moraga. For info, visit moragagallery.com.

**The Lafayette Art Gallery is hosting an Artists' Market in the courtyard** and fountain area next to the Gallery from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 17. The area will be transformed into an enticing outdoor marketplace reminiscent of Carmel, with a variety of artists exhibiting, demonstrating, and selling their artwork. Lafayette Art Gallery members will be there, and outside artists too - a total of 12-15 artists per show. On exhibit will be paintings, ceramics, photography, fine art, textiles, candles, garden art and much, much more. (925) 284-2788; www.lafayetteartgallery.com

**"Virtuosity Goes Viral" at the Lafayette Art Gallery, beginning May 6.** Energized by the gallery's beautiful new quarters on Mt. Diablo Boulevard at Brown Avenue, the artists will fill walls, display cases, and pedestals with more than 150 works of the first order, including paintings, jewelry, glasswork, ceramics, photographs, and more. May and June also mark the debut of "Second Fridays" - monthly receptions to which the public is cordially invited. Come between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 9 and on Friday, June 13 to meet the artists, have a glass wine, enjoy good conversation with art aficionados like yourself, and, of course, feast your eyes on a dazzling array of fine art. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayetteartgallery.com.

**Spring Reveals Itself: Klein Gallery and Parkmon Vineyards** collaborate for an art reception for the new show, "Air and Substance" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday May 9. (See story page B7)

**Summer Fashion Show and Art from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 20** at Jennifer Perlmutter Fine Art, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Paintings by Julia Rhymer and Jennifer Perlmutter fashion from Glamorous Boutique. Stylist/owner Eliza Jamkochian will provide in-person summer wardrobe consultation.

**The Commonwealth Club of California in San Francisco** is showcasing the artwork and poetry from over 30 third, fourth and fifth grade students from Springhill Elementary School at an exhibition "Befriending the Imagination" through June 27 at their San Francisco location, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor. The work includes writings on faces, hands, emotional qualities, similes about being a student, and miscellaneous works on the soul, time, imagination and nature.

### MUSIC

**Enjoy a free program of up-tempo tunes and tender ballads,** performed by Saint Mary's excellent student jazz ensemble from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7 in the Saint Mary's College Ferroggiaro Quad. The program showcases outstanding vocal and instrumental soloists and a big-band sound.

**Convergence, the spring dance concert slated for May 8, 9 and 10** in LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College, presents a dynamic program of new works by our talented and distinguished dance faculty. The SMC Dance Company dancers will explore the theme of "convergence" from a different point in space: dancers meet, merge and join together, converging in an evening of beautiful performances. Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$10 seniors (65+) and non SMC students; and \$5 for SMC students, faculty and staff. For info and reservations, call (925) 631-4670. Online tickets are also available at brownpapertickets.com.

**Totally Beethoven: The Pacific Chamber Symphony,** Lawrence Kohl, conductor, presents: Prometheus Opus 43 and Symphony No. 6 in F Major (Pastoral) at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 9 in the Community Hall, Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Tickets: \$30 seniors; \$35 adults; \$10 students with ID; children under 13 free with adult. Available at brownpapertickets.com or by calling (800) 838-3006.

**Enjoy an afternoon of music featuring local bands including Acalanes High School, Stanley Middle School, Bentley School and the Rossmoor Big Band** at the Lafayette Rotary's Concert at the Res from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Lafayette Reservoir. The concert will be at the new stage at the reservoir located 150 feet east from the parking lot adjacent to a shady picnic area and the children's playground. The proceeds are used to fund the Rotary Clubs public service projects and local music programs. (See story page B9)

**Contra Costa Children's Chorus: "Sister-Brother Mile."** Celebrating its 30th year with a concert featuring a retrospective of music, blending works of Mendelssohn, Whitacre, Americana, Argentinean and Brazilian music, and highlighting the world premiere of "Sister-Brother Mile" by Keenan Boswell, CCCC class of 2006, at 7 p.m. Friday, May 16 (upper levels 3, 4, honors) and Saturday, May 17 (levels 1, 2, and selections from upper levels) at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Tickets: \$15 general admission; \$10 seniors; \$5 students. Pay to CCCC, PO Box 2518, Walnut Creek, 94595 or brownpapertickets.com.

**Ready for a unique and talented take on a wide range of musical traditions?** Claude Bourbon, known throughout Europe and America for amazing guitar performances that take blues, Spanish, Middle Eastern, and Russian stylings into uncharted territories, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, May 16 at Mighty Fine Guitars in Lafayette. Tickets: Suggested donation \$20. For info and reservations, call (925) 268-8226 and to learn more about Claude Bourbon, visit www.claudebourbon.org.

**Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Anne Hege,** presents "Songs to Live By," a banquet of songs that feed the soul, remind us of our better selves, and bring us together at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18 at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3445 Hamlin Rd., Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 suggested donation at the door; \$20 advance; \$15 students; free for children ages 6-12. Available at the door or online: www.vocisings.com. For info, call (510) 531-8714.

**Diablo Women's Chorale presents its spring concert,** "The Birds and the Bees: Love of Nature and the Nature of Love," at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 18 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Doors open at 4 p.m. Light reception to follow. Seating is limited. Advance tickets are \$10 for students; \$15 general admission; and \$20 for premium seating. They are on sale now at www.diablowomenschorale.com. If not sold out, tickets will be sold at the door for \$18 general admission; \$10 for students.

### THEATER

**Role Players Ensemble presents Gilbert and Sullivan's "Ruddigore."** Combine a witch's curse, a haunted castle and a chorus of professional bridesmaids and you have a comic feast for the senses. This innovative take on Ruddigore Castle residents, both living and dead, fills the stage with delightful music, witty dialogue and wacky characters. Show runs through May 10; 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. Tickets: \$20-28; online at www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com; at Danville Community Center or call (925) 314-3400.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Saint Mary's College Creative Writing Reading event** with authors Erin Lindsay McCabe and Rosemary Graham at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7 at the Claeys Lounge in Saint Mary's Soda Center. Free. For more information about the authors, visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/mfa-in-creative-writing/creative-writing-reading-series.

**What pollutants are in our creeks? How do they affect our watershed? How can we prevent it? Learn the an-**

swers from speaker, Dr. Donald Weston at a free public lecture sponsored by Friends of Orinda Creeks at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 in the Garden Room at the Orinda Library.

**Local author Pamela S. Turner presents "The Dolphins of Shark Bay."** Ride alongside Turner and her scientific team and meet a cast of dolphin characters large enough (and charismatic enough) to rival a Shakespearean play—Puck, Piccolo, Flute, and Dodger among them. You will fall in love with this crew, both human and finned, as they seek to answer the question: just why are dolphins so smart? And what does their behavior tell us about human intelligence, captive animals, and the future of the ocean? This free event will be held at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in the Community Hall Thursday, May 15. Refreshments will be provided. Register at tinyurl.com/pamelaturnerdolphins.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Visit the Be the Star You Are!® charity booth at the Moraga Community Faire** for free bookmark making and Letters to Mom kids activities for Mother's Day. Buy autographed books, fresh lemons, organic eggs, and meet Cynthia Brian with Lamorinda teen writers and Express Yourself!™ Radio reporters. For info, visit starstyleradio.com/Events/Entries/2014/5/10\_MORAGA\_COMMUNITY\_F\_AIRE.html.

**Coach Kevin Macy's 7th Annual Campolindo Football Hall of Fame Dinner** starts at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at Back Forty Texas BBQ, 100 Coggin Dr., Pleasant Hill. Tickets for students: \$45. Contact Valerie Durantini for more information at vdurantini@gmail.com.

**Bring the family and make sculpture and art on the patio** with natural and found materials from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at Jennifer Perlmutter Fine Art, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. All ages welcome. Also showing TerraMar handmade jewelry by Napa artisan Bev Brown.

**The Gardens at Heather Farm is excited to host its annual Mother's Day event** in celebration of all moms! This fun-filled family event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 11 at The Gardens located at 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Bring a blanket and have a picnic in the Meadow Garden, stroll along the winding path of 24 unique gardens, or simply sit on a bench and soak up the natural beauty of the breathtaking surroundings including the meditation garden. Included are craft activities for everyone and a selection of gifts for sale from local Bay Area artists. Free.

**Lafayette Partners in Education is proud to announce Project LPIE** at Acalanes High School, a unique opportunity to recognize the talented Acalanes students for their project-based learning with a unique community twist! The students compete in any of the 13 categories that showcase their skills both within and outside the curriculum. Project judging is done by professional business people with extensive expertise in the various categories. The student project submissions include: Acting, Applied Design, Community Service, Creative Writing, Vocal Music, Photography, and many other categories! All projects will be displayed, and the winning projects will be recognized at the Award Reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 16 and an Open House event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, both located at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

**Join Contra Costa Children's Chorus. Kids, like to sing?** Free placement interviews Wednesday, May 28, for fall session at rehearsal site, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Scholarships available. Weekly rehearsals in Lafayette, two free tickets to spring concert with each confirmed interview appointment. New: Metrognomes Program for 4-6 year olds, no interview necessary. Check our website for questions, registration forms, and general chorus information at www.childrenschorus.org. Email elainelind@comcast.net.

... continued on next page



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Mother Day special:

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Alterations for Moms  
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**Rheem Valley Cleaners**

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Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Rheemvalleycleaners.com  
925-247-5499



**OTHER**

**A scientific presentation sponsored by the California Brain Tumor Association** on the health effects of cell phones, cell towers, smart meters and other devices 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Admission is free but seating is limited. Register at [overpowered.brownpapertickets.com](http://overpowered.brownpapertickets.com) or contact Ellie Marks at (925) 285-5437.

**Sleepy Hollow is located in a "Very High" Fire Hazard Severity Zone** and has earned the distinction of becoming Contra Costa County's first "FireWise Community." Please come learn about the Sleepy Hollow Evacuation Plan and Sleepy Hollow School's realigned emergency path from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 8 in the Sleepy Hollow School's multi-purpose room. The neighborhood will also be recognized as a Firewise site. Moraga-Orinda Fire District and five other agencies will be present to provide information and solicit feedback. Contact Moraga-Orinda Fire District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein for details at (925) 698-4575.

**Help fight Sudden Oak Death this year in the East Bay—** at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 10 come to the Garden Room at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, for a one-hour session on SOD and the Blitz leaf collection protocol with UC professor and SOD Blitz founder Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, then collect leaves from areas and at times of your choosing through Sunday, May 11. Garbelotto's lab will analyze the leaves for SOD and post the results in the fall on Blitz website map. Visit the site, [www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org), for more information and to see the results of past Blitzes. For space and material planning purposes, please email William Hudson at [wllhh@ymail.com](mailto:wllhh@ymail.com) if you plan to attend.

**The Moraga Community Faire will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** on Saturday, May 10 at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 570 Center St., Moraga. The event will include a classic car show, music performances, wine tasting from Lamorinda wineries, Moraga-owned food trucks, art and jewelry for sale, local merchants, and a dunk tank with local celebrities. For kids there will be a climbing wall, carnival games, Bricks 4 Kidz Lego experience, and a bounce house. A fire truck and County Connection bus will round out the attractions. For more information visit [www.moragachamber.org/faire](http://www.moragachamber.org/faire). (See story page B9)

**Home Composting for Busy People. Learn how easy it is** to compost yard debris and food scraps in your own backyard from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Mount Diablo Nursery, 3295 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. This workshop also covers vermicomposting - the process of using worms to turn food waste into a nutrient-rich compost that your garden will love. Free. Workshop reservations are required. To register, please call (925) 906-1801.

**Not to be missed**

**Join National Park Service rangers for a full moon walk at 7 p.m.** Wednesday, May 14 on Mt. Wanda, part of the John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) in Martinez. This free, two-hour program begins with a one-mile, moderately strenuous hike to watch the full moon rise over nearby Mt. Diablo. Visitors should meet at the parking lot on the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, Martinez. Bring water, a flashlight, warm clothes, and binoculars (if you have them). Wear comfortable walking shoes, as the trail is steep. If it rains heavily, the walk will be canceled. Reservations are not required. For info, visit [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu).

**The 6th annual Lamorinda Senior Health Expo for Boomers and Beyond** will be held from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 16 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way in Orinda. This year's keynote speaker is Bob Sarlatte who will talk humorously about his own experiences as his parents aged and the challenges that many Baby Boomers currently face with their elderly parents. The fair is free and will include various presentations, free health screenings and complementary food and refreshments. Reservations can be made by calling Senior Helpers at (925) 376-9900 or going online at [www.seniorhelpers.com/contracosta](http://www.seniorhelpers.com/contracosta).

**Lafayette Juniors 15th Annual Kitchen Tour will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Saturday, May 17. Tour six special Lafayette homes with unique rustic, ranch, Cape Cod, open concept, traditional, and farmhouse style kitchens. The tour benefits First Place for Youth, STAND!, the Lafayette Library, SEED, and Twin Canyon Camp. Tickets: \$40, with a box lunch available for \$15. Purchase tickets online today at [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org) or from Douglass Designs and Premier Kitchens in Lafayette. (See story page D1)

**Lafayette Hiking Group - May 17- Bartholomew Park Hike** and Winery, Sonoma. Meet in the parking lot outside Lafayette BART's main entrance at 9 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead. Bring lunch to share, water, layered clothing, good walking shoes, sun protection and money to contribute toward gas (\$5). Moderate hike for about 2 miles with 500 feet elevation gain, varied vegetation, valley views, followed by wine tasting in the museum and a potluck picnic. Reservations to [georgedenney01@comcast.net](mailto:georgedenney01@comcast.net), required by May 12, maximum of 14 people. For info, email [LafayetteHiking@comcast.net](mailto:LafayetteHiking@comcast.net).

**Wind Chime Workshop: Making Music for Your Garden** from 2 to 5 p.m. May 17. Wind chimes can be made with an exciting mixture of elements so please use your imagination! There will be filament, string, drills, other fasteners and glues and will also provide bamboo and assorted materials to use in creating your instrument for making music in the garden! You may want to bring your own items to make your wind chime unique; meeting is rain or

shine at the Lafayette Community Garden at 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd., across from and just west of the Lafayette Reservoir. A \$5 donation per person to support our education programs is appreciated but not required. Register for classes at [www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org](http://www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org).

**12th Annual Taste of Lafayette from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 20.** The tours begin at Lafayette Plaza with a wine and beer reception including appetizers and musical entertainment featuring a Beatles Tribute. Ticket holders go at their own pace to any or all of the participating restaurants. Then return for a dessert reception at the Plaza from 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by May 9; \$50 thereafter. (See story page B9)

**Campolindo High School junior Sam Larson is collecting** new and gently used toys, sports and rec equipment, backpacks, athletic apparel, outerwear, accessories, jewelry, and shoes for underprivileged kids preschool to age 18. These items will be given away at a "New to You" event held in September in San Pablo. Collection starts now and continues through August. Drop your items at 243 Paseo del Rio, Moraga, or call (925) 284-8142 for pickup. For info, email [californiasam22@gmail.com](mailto:californiasam22@gmail.com).

**Drivers take note: Saint Mary's Commencement Weekend** May 23-25. The Undergraduate Commencement takes place at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 24 in the SMC Stadium. The Graduate and Professional Studies Commencement ceremony is 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 25.

**Chocolate and Chalk Art Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Saturday, May 31 (rain date, June 7) at Gourmet Ghetto, North Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Chalk Art Contest! Eat Chocolate! Free. For info, call (510) 548-5335.

**POLITICAL GATHERINGS**

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated welcomes Tom Vaillancourt**, well-known East Bay activist, who will speak on the ramifications of the ACA, at noon, May 15, at the Orinda Country Club. For luncheon information and reservations, contact Elsie Euing at (925) 254-8617 by May 10. Cost: \$25. Men are welcome!

**SENIORS**

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first** Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The after lunch speaker on May 7 will be Jim Barnett, the television analyst for the Golden State Warriors. Barnett has a huge knowledge of the NBA, the Warriors history and current and past players and will provide his slant on the current state of the Warriors and what the future may hold for the team. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**Not to be missed**

**Lamorinda Dance Social: enjoy afternoon dancing 12:30 to 3 p.m.** every Wednesday at the Live Oak Room in the Lafayette Community Center at 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. The first Wednesday monthly, professional dancers Karen and Michael will provide a dance lesson and live DJ services, playing your favorites and taking requests. Cost: Senior Services member \$2; non-members \$4. Please call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050 to sign up.

**A crime and fraud prevention forum presented by Eric Christensen**, Lafayette Police Chief, and Cam Burks, Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission, is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 15 at the Lafayette Community Center Sequoia Room. Hear from the experts how you can protect yourself and your loved ones from scams and schemes. There is no charge for the forum, but please call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050 to sign up.

**Sons in Retirement (SIR) Lamorinda Hills Branch #174**, invites you to attend a luncheon meeting from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700

School Street, Moraga. The after-lunch speaker will be Cindy Lima of the California Highway Patrol, whose topic is "Age Well, Drive Smart." In addition, activities are scheduled throughout the month (golf, bridge, computer developments and use, etc.) in which members may participate. No dues, just pay for your lunch! For membership information and reservations call Neal at (925) 283-5127.

**GARDEN**

**The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its meeting at 9:30 a.m.** Monday, May 12 at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. It will include the business meeting, social time and plant exchange, and visits to several member's gardens. You do not need to be a "gardener" to attend a meeting or join the WCGC. For more info, contact [mslitt44@gmail.com](mailto:mslitt44@gmail.com).

**Montelindo Garden Club Meeting (third Friday, September through May)** will be at 9 a.m. Friday, May 16 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. Topic: "Critters in the Garden." The speaker will be Joan Morris of the Contra Costa Times.

**Please submit:**

**Events:** [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Stories:** [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Letters:** [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Opinion:** [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Service Clubs Announcements**



Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club**

We meet Friday mornings at 7 am at Celia's Mexican Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com)

**May 9:**

Ted Klauber will speak about advertising trends and the 2014 Super Bowl ads.

**May 16:**

Valisha Fullard, Executive Director and Leslie Werosh, Division Director Operations & Compliance will speak about the California Autism Foundation: A Better Chance

**Please be our guest for breakfast and a great speaker!**



**She's Not Misbehavin', She's Communicatin'**

Understanding and Coping with Challenging Behaviors Associated with Alzheimer's and Dementia

Laurie will present information on why a person exhibits challenging behaviors and helps participants approach them in a thoughtful, respectful and person-centered way.

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**Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

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# A Fish Tale

By Susie Iventosch



Seabass with sesame-chili oil and toasted almonds.

Photo Susie Iventosch

One day we were really craving Chilean sea bass, but wanted to keep it as simple as possible, since we had a very busy day, that particular day. Our family really likes sesame oil for a lot of different recipes, including cabbage salad and Chinese chicken salad. I actually just love to smell it right in the bottle; it has such a fantastic aroma.

It so happened that my son had just purchased a bottle of sesame-chili oil for a different recipe, something I'd not seen before he brought it home. But it was really good and we decided to use it on our sea bass. So we brushed the entire sea bass fillet with the sesame-chili oil, seasoned it with fresh ground pepper and then completely covered the tops and sides of the fillet with chopped, toasted slivered almonds and baked it in a foil tent. This dish was so good, it was hard to believe how simple it was to put together.

For several years, Chilean sea

bass was on the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch "red" list as a fish to be avoided due to over-fishing and pirate fishing. Many fishermen were catching the fish illegally in water belonging to others, and failed to report their catches or to consider the impact of over-fishing on the sustainability of the species.

The mission of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch is the conservation of the oceans and the sustainability of wild, diverse and healthy ocean ecosystems, by helping consumers and businesses make healthy choices for the sustainability of the oceans and sea life. According to Seafood Watch, nearly 85 percent of the world's fisheries are over-fished or fished to capacity. Through research and programs

they initiate, they have been able to work with industry experts to create better, more sustainable fishery practices.

Since the red-listing of several fish, including the Chilean sea bass, the fishing industry along with governments have worked hard to eliminate pirate fishing and to document the sourcing for fish that enters the country. As a result of these efforts, Chilean sea bass is once again okay to eat. This is great news, because it is so delicious! Seafood Watch says to look for the blue eco-label of the Marine Stewardship Council.

Seafood Watch has a free app for the iPhone and Android phones, so you can double check the sources and to see which fish is good to buy or avoid, before you purchase your fish!

For more information regarding Chilean sea bass, or any other type of seafood, please visit Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch: [http://www.seafoodwatch.org/cr/SeafoodWatch/web/sfw\\_factsheet.aspx?gid=11](http://www.seafoodwatch.org/cr/SeafoodWatch/web/sfw_factsheet.aspx?gid=11).

Marine Stewardship Council: [http://www.msc.org/search?SearchableText=sea+bass&facet=true&facet.field=portal\\_type](http://www.msc.org/search?SearchableText=sea+bass&facet=true&facet.field=portal_type).

## Seabass with Sesame-Chili Oil and Toasted Almonds

(Serves 3-4)



### INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 to 2 pounds Chilean sea bass fillet(s)
- 2 tablespoons sesame-chili oil (Dynasty packages this oil)
- 3/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted and finely chopped

### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking dish with foil. Spray bottom of foil with cooking spray and lay fish fillets on foil. Brush tops and sides of fish fillets with sesame-chili oil, sprinkle with a little black pepper and pat chopped almonds to completely cover tops and sides of fish. Tent with foil and seal edges.

Bake for 18-22 minutes, depending upon the thickness of the fish fillets. Open foil for the last few minutes to allow nuts to get a little bit more crunchy.

Serve with your favorite rice (or the tabouli-black rice dish minus the chicken; see the recipe in our archive at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0804/Forbidden-Black-Rice-Tabouli-Chicken-Bowl.html>) and drizzle any drippings over top of fish.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net). Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).

**This recipe can be found on our website:** [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com). If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



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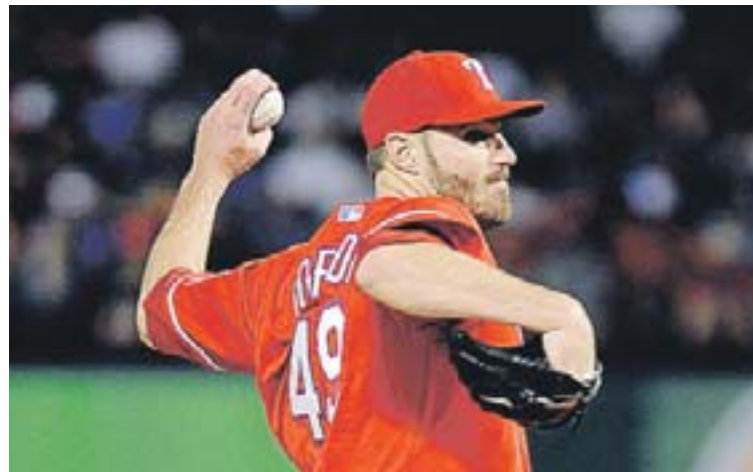
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## What a Relief

*Poreda overcomes Tommy John; Pitches for Rangers*

By Nick Marnell



Aaron Poreda

Photo provided

Aaron Poreda stood on the mound facing down Major League Baseball's third leading active home run hitter—and he couldn't have been happier to do it because Poreda was pitching in the MLB for the first time in nearly five years.

The 2004 Campolindo graduate and Diablo Foothill Athletic League Most Valuable Pitcher starred at the University of San Francisco. In 2007, the Chicago White Sox picked him in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft.

However, after a fast track to the Majors in 2009, and a trade to the San Diego Padres, Poreda lost his ability to throw strikes. At its worst, his walk ratio exceeded one per inning. Eventually the Padres left him unprotected in the 2011 Rule 5 draft, and Poreda was claimed by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Poreda knew the reason for his deteriorating performance, but he hoped he could overcome the injury. "My arm was a little sore, but I was battling, doing everything I could," he

said. But the pain in his left elbow would not go away.

He pitched for the Pirates' Double-A franchise until finally, after a game in 2012, he could not bend his arm. Poreda was diagnosed with a damaged ulnar collateral ligament. "We had tried rehab, we tried injections. I discussed it with my parents, my agent. I knew it was time," said Poreda.

He underwent Tommy John surgery that fall. The following March, the Pirates released him.

Newly married, unemployed, and working through an intense, painful rehabilitation, Poreda said that he questioned whether he wanted to continue his baseball career. He credited his love and appreciation for the game for trumping all of the doubts. "The hardest part was the day-to-day grind," he explained. "It was a long, tiresome rehab, knowing that you're not going to pitch for a year. But I was going to make it back, or die trying."

His hard work paid off. In October, Poreda's arm strength had returned and his agent set up a bullpen session in Arizona. The Texas Rangers, one of nine teams to attend the workout, offered Poreda a minor league contract. "It was awesome," he said. "I felt like I was given a second opportunity and I was going to make the most of it."

He opened the 2014 regular season at Triple-A Round Rock. He pitched in five games - tallying five strikeouts and only one walk in four innings.

Then, on April 18, Poreda got the call he was hoping to get—he was called up to the Majors.

"I was in my hotel room in Omaha that morning, feeling a little under the weather, and my pitching coach called. He said to get on a plane to Arlington," he recalled. "Yeah, I was stoked."

The very next day, Poreda was summoned out of the Rangers' bullpen in the sixth inning. He faced designated hitter Adam Dunn, a left-handed hitter with 443 career home runs.

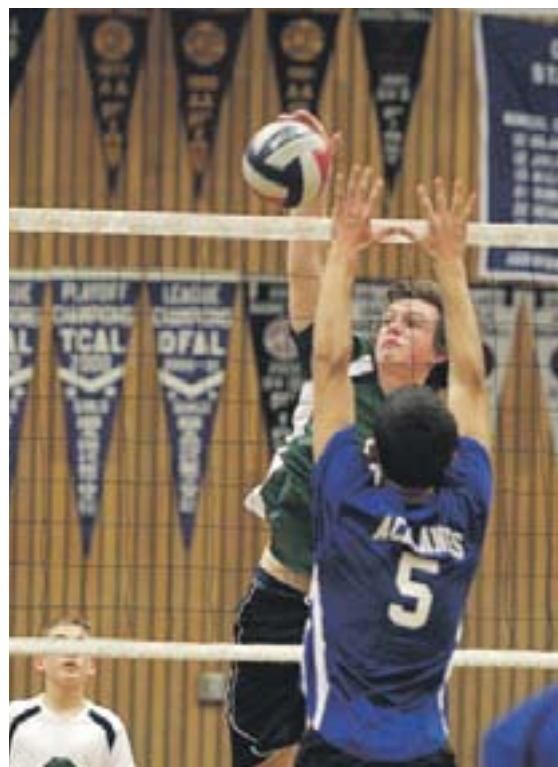
"I took a couple of deep breaths," he said of his first pitch. The 6-foot-6 lefty cut loose a 96-mph fastball. Dunn swung and lifted a harmless fly ball which was easily hauled in by the Rangers' center fielder.

Poreda had officially made it back.

Through May 4, Poreda made six relief appearances for the Rangers, compiling a 1-0 record and an earned run average of 0.00.

## Campolindo Aims for DFAL Title

By Marissa Harnett



Acalanes defeated Miramonte on April 30 for its first win of the season.

Photos Gint Federas

As the boys' volleyball season winds down, Campolindo is in a good position to take the league title. With two games to go in DFAL play, the Cougars remain undefeated with a record of 8-0 (30-2 overall). As of May 1, Miramonte is 2-5 in league (5-6 overall) while Acalanes sits at 1-6 (1-11 overall).

Campo's long running program is arguably a good reason that the team is on top and seeks its fourth straight NCS title. The team has worked to improve by pitting itself against high caliber competition.

Head coach David Chen acknowledges his good fortune to have deep talent, but realizes that high expectations come with that. He feels that the boys' response to the pressure has matured throughout the season.

"The guys have started to internalize all the external pressures to find strength and confidence within themselves as a group," he said.

Chen looks forward to the upcoming NCS tournament. "The past players fought so hard to get the program to a position to even compete for a title, and now we are working on our fourth straight," he said.

Although confident and proud,

Chen remains cautious. "We understand that the most dangerous team is the team who is gelling and peaking during playoffs and have the belief that they can and will beat anyone," he explained.

Miramonte has had a volatile season. Half of Miramonte's team returned from last year, and the other half was brand new to volleyball. "I wanted to make sure to give the new guys a strong foundation in fundamental skills and techniques," new head coach Lisa Bachtold explained.

After notching three wins in four games in the preseason, they sustained three losses in four games once league play began.

Despite up-and-down performances, Bachtold is happy with her players' efforts. "Miramonte has been doing very well, considering this is only its second year of essentially a new program," she said.

The returning players have also played a role in developing the new players. "The guys with experience have shown a tremendous amount of leadership bringing the new guys up to speed," Bachtold said.

She sees each game, win or lose, as a learning opportunity. "We ask

ourselves what can we take away from this experience in order to be more successful the next time," she explained.

Acalanes has had some difficulty gaining momentum this season. The team saw a major personnel shift from last year. "The team is much different than last year's because out of 17 guys we really only have 5 that have played volleyball for more than 1 year, compared to last year where most of the seniors had been playing since they were around 13 years old," head coach Mason Mulvaney explained.

With a roster of mostly freshman and sophomores, the team is young and inexperienced. "It has been tougher than previous years," Mulvaney acknowledged. "But I think the boys are having a good time and improving," he continued.

Mulvaney was particularly happy with the improvement he saw in both the Dougherty Valley and Las Lomas games. The win against Miramonte on April 30 helped boost confidence.

There are two more games remaining before NCS tournament play begins May 14.

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## Lamorinda Rugby Falls Short

Submitted by Steve Peterson



The Lamorinda Rugby Varsity teams' seasons ended in the Northern California Playoffs, with Varsity Gold dropping its quarterfinal match to Sierra Foothills and Varsity Silver coming up short against a strong Napa team.

Matt Woolsey and fellow seniors finish an incredible Lamorinda rugby career. Photo provided



## Gaels go for Gold

Submitted by Tony Samaniego and Paul Stich



Saint Mary's rugby advanced to the D1A Collegiate Rugby finals after a win on May 3. The Gaels defeated Linwood 42-7.

Clara University 103-10 to get to the semifinals. Saint Mary's will face Life College in the championship on May 10 at Stanford University.

## Karate Champs

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



Photo provided

Five Moraga athletes took home 11 medals at the Northern California Spring Classic Karate Championships in Chico on April 26.

The Simpson family brought home nine medals. Mother, Darlene Simpson, took gold in Kata (forms) and Kumite (sparring). Logan took

home gold in Kata, Kumite and Kobudo (weapons). Twin brother, Justin, took silver in Kata and Kumite. Finally, Trevor Simpson took home gold in Kumite and silver in Kata.

Morgan Langstaff took home bronze in Kata and Kumite.

## Divers Represent Lamorinda

Submitted by Marie Estorge



From left: Chester Halstead, Kaitlin Steinleither, Morgan Matranga, Alea Barrios, Kate Seperack, Simone Raeth and Nikita Ryzhov. Photo by Marie Estorge

The CLAM dive team hosted Berkeley in a dual meet on May 3.

In the girls' FC event, Madeleine Helvey took third place. In the girls' JV event, Maggie Phillips of Acalanes took first. Teammate Maia Marshall and Campolindo's Jessica Sanborn

finished second and third, respectively. In the girls' varsity event, Morgan Matranga led the Cougars with a first place effort. Dons' Simone Raeth took third.

Chester Halstead of Campolindo took first place in the boys' varsity event.

## Moraga Triathlon Results

The Town of Moraga hosted the 8th Annual Moraga Tri on April 26. Over 175 adults and 50 children participated in the event. Here are some of the top finishes:

### Open Top Finishes

| Place | Name             | Gender | Age Group    | Time    |
|-------|------------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| 1     | Darren Baker     | M      | 1/23 M 45-49 | 1:02:05 |
| 2     | Jason Campbell   | M      | 1/20 M 50-54 | 1:02:11 |
| 3     | Steve Fung       | M      | 1/20 M 40-44 | 1:07:20 |
| 4     | Erik Fiske       | M      | 1/8 M 30-34  | 1:08:33 |
| 5     | Rebecca Eckland  | F      | 1/6 F 30-34  | 1:09:07 |
| 6     | Taylor Hockett   | M      | 1/8 M 25-29  | 1:09:29 |
| 7     | Thomas Johnston  | M      | 2/23 M 45-49 | 1:10:20 |
| 8     | Charles Hobbs    | M      | 2/20 M 40-44 | 1:12:36 |
| 9     | David Boatwright | M      | 2/20 M 50-54 | 1:14:31 |
| 10    | William Workman  | M      | 3/23 M 45-49 | 1:14:00 |

### Male Top Finishers

| Place | Name           | Age | Time    |
|-------|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1     | Darren Baker   | 46  | 1:02:05 |
| 2     | Jason Campbell | 52  | 1:02:11 |
| 3     | Steve Fung     | 42  | 1:07:20 |
| 4     | Erik Fiske     | 31  | 1:08:33 |
| 5     | Taylor Hockett | 29  | 1:09:29 |

### Female Top Finishers

| Place | Name            | Age | Time    |
|-------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1     | Rebecca Eckland | 32  | 1:09:07 |
| 2     | Kendra Hodder   | 43  | 1:16:24 |
| 3     | Jennifer Gray   | 35  | 1:22:53 |
| 4     | Emily Crow      | 37  | 1:24:41 |
| 5     | Cassie Kays     | 30  | 1:25:29 |

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 5 Wednesday, May 7, 2014

## Juniors Kitchen Tour Features Six Spectacular Kitchens

By Catherine Kauder



*A built-in niche made of glass mosaic tile above kitchen designer Leilah Douglass's stove is both beautiful and practical.*

*Photos Andy Scheck*

**A**n eclectic mix of beautifully designed kitchens will be on the Lafayette Juniors' 15th annual Kitchen Tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17. This year's tour features six special kitchens ranging in style from rustic, traditional, ranch, Cape Cod and farmhouse.

One of the stops on the tour is the Happy Valley home of kitchen designer Leila Douglass. When Douglass and her husband Doug Scougale bought the property two and a half years ago, they fell in love with the land but were not as enamored of the existing small home built in 1957. So the couple



*Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May ...read on page D15*

took the home apart piece by piece and recycled all of the materials to be used elsewhere. Meanwhile, Douglass got her contractor's license and spent over two years building her dream house.

Although she has been creating kitchens for clients for years, when it came to designing her own, Douglass had to decide how to merge her more transitional style with her husband's love of antiques.

... continued on page D6



*The stone and copper hood serves as the focal point for Douglass's kitchen.*



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4 bed/3baths home with approx. 2373 sqft with views of Orinda Theatre.  
**Price upon Request**

**127 Jervis Bay, Alameda**

**FOR SALE**



Luxurious Lagoon Living, 3bd, 2.5 baths, 1972 sqft approx. of living space  
**Offered at \$829,000**

**588 Dalewood Dr, Orinda**

**FOR SALE**



Romantic Retreat in Orinda Downs, 4bed/3.5 baths, 3545 sqft approx. of living space  
**Offered at \$1,749,000**

**FOR SALE**

**1234 Morning Glory, Concord**



Turtle Creek Finest, 4 bed/2.5 baths, 2300 sqft approx.  
**Offered at \$600,000**

**SALE PENDING**

**10 Laird Dr, Moraga**



Charming Rheem Valley home with huge flat yard.  
Representing Buyer

**1354 Meadow Glen, Concord**



Private cul-de-sac in Turtle Creek, one story.  
Representing Seller

**SOLD IN APRIL 2014**

**1702 Toyon Dr, Lafayette**



Where Nature meets Architecture surrounded by redwoods and creek.

**52 Miner Rd, Orinda**



Orinda Country Club Charmer overlooking golf course. Represented Buyer

**4060 Fiora Place, Lafayette**



Hidden Valley Charm sold with multiple offers. Represented Seller

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City      | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 4              | \$650,000      | \$1,685,000     |
| MORAGA    | 11             | \$438,000      | \$1,402,500     |
| ORINDA    | 10             | \$760,000      | \$1,525,000     |

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

### LAFAYETTE

1630 Reliez Valley Road, \$975,000, 6 Bdrms, 4167 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-1-14

2 West Arbor Way, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-1-14;

Previous Sale: \$736,000, 05-13-04

10 West Creek Court, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1488 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 3-28-14

1143 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,685,000, 4 Bdrms, 2813 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-3-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,084,000, 06-28-02

### MORAGA

119 Ascot Court #7, \$438,000, 3 Bdrms, 1320 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-4-14;

Previous Sale: \$548,000, 12-28-07

712 Augusta Drive, \$732,000, 2 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-3-14;

Previous Sale: \$662,000, 03-30-10

401 Birchwood Drive, \$1,305,000, 5 Bdrms, 2948 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-9-14

35 Birkdale Place, \$1,402,500, 5 Bdrms, 2732 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-4-14;

Previous Sale: \$920,000, 10-08-03

1463 Camino Peral, \$529,500, 2 Bdrms, 1159 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-8-14;

Previous Sale: \$444,000, 02-07-13

38 Corte Pinon, \$1,165,000, 4 Bdrms, 2928 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 4-2-14

1018 Del Rio Way, \$1,254,000, 5 Bdrms, 2506 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-28-14;

Previous Sale: \$915,000, 03-25-10

115 Draeger Drive, \$930,000, 3 Bdrms, 1945 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-8-14;

Previous Sale: \$136,500, 06-01-79

3872 Paseo Grande, \$1,290,000, 4 Bdrms, 2342 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-2-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,010,000, 06-03-08

73 Sullivan Drive, \$1,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 2132 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-31-14

109 Westchester Street, \$810,000, 3 Bdrms, 2291 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-8-14;

Previous Sale: \$775,000, 08-06-04

... continued on page D14

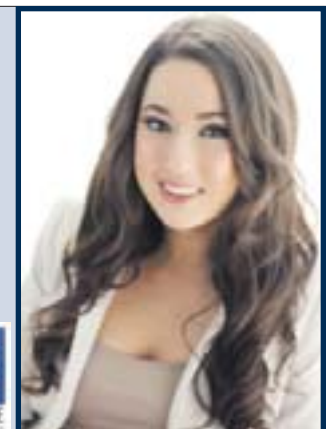
## Cait Hudson

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## 1386 Rimer Drive, Moraga

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# Juniors Kitchen Tour Features Six Spectacular Kitchens

... continued from page D1



*Circular pendant lights and stainless steel appliances give this traditional kitchen a modern edge.*

The answer: an English cottage-style kitchen that combines design elements of a more traditional home with modern amenities.

The kitchen's walls are lined with custom-made walnut cabinets accented with bronze hardware, with a white hutch and center island to add contrasting color. The large island has a creamy countertop flecked with oranges and browns that pick up the darker colors of the surrounding cabinetry. The countertops under the walnut cabinets are lighter than that of the island, and both are made of quartzite, a material that resembles marble but is more durable and resistant to stains and scratches.

Above the island hangs a cluster of three circular forged iron candelabra light fixtures that give a contemporary touch to the kitchen while still blending in with the traditional surroundings.

Douglah was also sure to incorporate modern conveniences like a steam oven, a stainless Sub-Zero refrigerator and a built-in Miele espresso maker in her butler's

pantry to facilitate the couple's love of entertaining.

"We do more of open-house type events where everyone just wants to hang in the kitchen," she says.

Her favorite feature of her kitchen is a beautiful stone hood topped with copper that sits above the Wolf stove. The marble backsplash behind the stovetop has a carved-out niche in glass mosaic tile that she uses to keep cooking staples like salt, pepper and olive oil within easy reach.

Across town in the trails area of Lafayette, Kieran and Jeanette Mone also fell in love with a piece of property, which just happened to have a 100-year-old house on it. The Mones lived in the original 1,400 square-foot ranch house – complete with the original furnace, windows, plumbing and electrical – for three years after they purchased it in 2008. In 2011, the couple decided to rebuild the home into a modern-day farmhouse for their family of five.

... continued on page D10

# Own the Good Life...

## 36 Candle Terrace in Orinda Downs



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The feeling is East Coast Traditional yet with the casual indoor/outdoor living of California. This is a warm and friendly home with fireplaces, lush carpeting, hardwood floors, high ceilings and beautiful details that lends coziness to the four bedrooms, library, office, two family rooms and other living areas; while the formal rooms accommodate entertaining on a grand scale.

Situated on one of Orinda Downs most desirable streets, this exquisitely crafted home boasts the utmost in privacy, quality and elegance. Its .8 acre lot and approximately 4,865 square feet are rich with architectural elements.

This magnificent property effortlessly blends modern sophistication with comfortable family living.



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### 3628 Brook Street, Lafayette

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### 159 Moraga Way, Orinda

A picturesque entry across a charming bridge, under a canopy of mature trees, welcomes you to this nostalgic Cape Cod. New and déjà vu are both masterfully captured in this tastefully updated vintage gem originally built in 1939, that boasts 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and approximately 2100 square feet per appraisal. The stately trees and creek side setting offer complete privacy and provide a soft background for what awaits you inside.

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## 3316 Las Huertas, Lafayette



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Listed for \$1,998,000

Virtual tour:  
[www.3316LasHuertas.com](http://www.3316LasHuertas.com)



## 598 Justin Morgan, Alamo



This magnificent gated estate, on a private knoll, has unparalleled views. Completed in 2006, this special Mediterranean style home reflects the beauty of its surroundings and combines understated elegance and easy living. Located near the prestigious Round Hill Country Club.

Listed for \$4,900,000

Virtual tour:  
[www.598JustinMorgan.com](http://www.598JustinMorgan.com)



Kathy McCann

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Kathy  
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Kathryn  
O'Donnell

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925-330-1449



# Juniors Kitchen Tour Features Six Spectacular Kitchens

... continued from page D6



*Jeanette and Kieran Mone's industrial farmhouse kitchen mixes colorful vintage appliances with reclaimed metal light fixtures.*

Completed in 2013, Jeanette Mone describes the décor of her house as “industrial farmhouse,” which combines traditional accessories like farmhouse curtains in front of the hallway laundry nook with lighting fixtures made from reclaimed metal.

Their kitchen is fun and cheerful, with a black and white checkerboard ceramic tile floor and shaker-style white cabinets. Red and turquoise appliances dot the kitchen with color, including a 1950 turquoise KitchenAid oven, which Jeanette literally found on a curb and Kieran, a contractor who built the home, refurbished.

Kieran also repurposed a metal farm feeder into a light fixture over the kitchen island, which is topped with a dark-stained Alder wood counter and a Shaw's farmhouse sink. The kitchen's pantry and utility hallway have screen doors, which allow air to circulate and let Jeanette keep track of what's being used. Not a fan of

clutter, Jeanette's favorite thing about the kitchen is the open metal shelving on either side of the stainless steel hood, which holds the family's plates and bowls.

“We go through that entire stack of plates every week and a half,” she says. “It really is a very practical thing.”

The Mones took inspiration from the original house by duplicating the 1913 millwork in the molding around the windows and doors and used the red door from the original house as their front door, even down to the knob.

To see these and other great homes on the tour, tickets can be purchased online at [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org) or from Douglass Designs and Premier Kitchens in Lafayette. Tickets are \$40 (\$30 tax deductible) with a box lunch available for \$15.

Proceeds from this year's Tour benefit the work of five local non-profit organizations including First

Place for Youth, STAND!, the Lafayette Library, SEED, and Twin Canyon Camp. These organizations were selected by the Lafayette Juniors for the support they provide to children and families in need in Contra Costa and neighboring East Bay counties.



*Open metal shelving next to the stove holds the family's plates.*



*A Shaw's Original Fireclay sink sits on the Alder wood island.*

## He's All About New Listings in May



3 Canyon View Drive, Orinda



4 Las Cascadas, Orinda



25 Las Vegas Road, Orinda



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# New Listing 102 Orchard Road Orinda

81 MOSSBRIDGE - *Listed*

171 CAMINO PABLO - *Sold*

18 CHARLES HILL - *Sold*

17 TAPPAN LANE - *Pending*

## LISTING ORINDA



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# Lana Fitzpatrick

## *Coldwell Banker Top 100 Producer Presents*

### 101 Brookline, Moraga



**Offered at \$995,000**

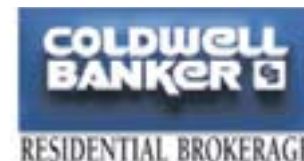
Impeccably remodeled, detached view home in the Moraga Country Club with a spacious front and back yard! The chef's kitchen was completely updated with Juparana Delicatus granite slab counters, restaurant style stainless steel appliances, a tumbled stone backsplash & a chocolate brown granite coffee station. The master bath was expanded to create a spa like space with heated stone floors, large custom shower and a deep soaking tub. Master bedroom closet and office enjoy custom wood painted cabinetry to help you organize your life. The ample .17 acre corner lot is professionally landscaped from front to back, including a custom fence, raised flower beds, a lawn area and a terrace. Home Statistics - 2055 square feet, 2 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, dining room, formal living, family room and breakfast bar.



### Lana Fitzpatrick

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## To DIY or hire, that is the question

By Andi Peterson Brown

I don't know about you, but last night when I watched the same commercial from Lowe's four times in 30 minutes that kept telling me to Never Stop Improving, I have to say that it worked. They got me. All of a sudden I had a burning desire to improve something, anything. It was 9:15 at night but I wanted to jump in the car right then and there and drive to Lowe's to buy brushes and cans and sprays and plants and on and on and on...

They made it look so fun, so happy, and so relaxing to repaint the house, landscape the yard, and sandpaper the front porch. The sun was shining, everyone smiled as they worked - I mean how could you not want to sandpaper your front porch when it could bring such joy?

Sure there are lots of projects that are a-ok to stock up at Lowe's for and do-it-yourself, but many are better left to the professionals. So how do you know when to hire a professional? Hire a professional when:

- The project is elaborate or extensive. Adding on? Rebuilding kitchen cabinets? Call an expert.
- You just aren't handy with a hammer and never will be.
- You don't have the time. If you don't have the time, you will end up with 2/3 of a completed project. Trust me.



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*Client satisfaction: a family tradition*

## One-Story Campolindo Charmer with Large, Level Yard

New listing



394 Calle La Montana, Moraga

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath, single-story Campolindo charmer is ready for you to move in and enjoy! Featuring newly refinished hardwood floors, a remodeled kitchen, and dual-paned windows, the home opens onto a large, level yard with grassy area, play structure, deck, patio and open area beyond. There is also a large side yard for boat or RV parking, bike riding, basketball and more. With an excellent commute location and close to Campolindo High School and the Cabana Club, this could be the one you've been waiting for. **Offered at: \$879,000**

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**Michelle Holcenberg**

michelle@holcenberg.com

925.253.4663  
CalBRE#01373412



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### ORINDA

63 Bates Boulevard, \$1,099,000, 3 Bdrms, 2126 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-28-14

1 Camino Del Cielo, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 4901 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 3-31-14; Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 06-25-10

60 Davis Road, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 3346 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 4-2-14

58 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-8-14; Previous Sale: \$470,000, 03-29-91

5 Francisco Court, \$921,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-1-14; Previous Sale: \$465,000, 11-30-00

120 Glorietta Boulevard, \$859,000, 3 Bdrms, 1621 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 3-28-14

11 Los Cerros, \$1,187,000, 4 Bdrms, 2959 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-2-14; Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 05-21-02

18 Mira Loma Road, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 2546 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 4-8-14; Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 06-17-08

112 Spring Road, \$760,000, 2 Bdrms, 1395 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 3-31-14; Previous Sale: \$475,000, 07-29-11

18 Sunnyside Lane, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2788 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-1-14



# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

*"Now every field is clothed with grass, and every tree with leaves; now the woods put forth their blossoms, and the year assumes its gay attire." – Virgil*

By Cynthia Brian



*A path lined with larkspur, cineraria, lambs ear, penstemon, and white roses invites a springtime stroll.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

May is one of the most beautiful months of the year in our California gardens. The weather is warm, yet mild, as our landscapes burst into bloom. The birds are chirping while building nests, the bees are buzzing, the frogs are croaking, butterflies and hummingbirds flit through the air. A renaissance of nature is in full swing and we are the delighted recipients of the rewards.

This is the month that we really get up, get out,

and get going as summer entertaining approaches. The colors, shapes, textures, and fragrance of spring's cool combinations create a tapestry of sensory explosions. It's easy to spend hours, days even, working the earth to design the drama and harness the harmony that we crave and need. Drought tolerant and native plants are our go-to specimens for the season. Add velvety lamb's ears or gray Artemisia, both deer and rabbit resistant,

to your beds of warm hued snapdragons for a punch of genius. For a mega health boost, make sure to plant a variety of carrots in red, orange, yellow, and purple. They are not only great for our eyes, but are loaded with Vitamin A and C, rich in antioxidants, including beta-carotene, high in fiber and cancer fighting nutrients, and low in calories. Welcome to your garden!

... continued on next page

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

... continued from page D15

- CONSERVE water by sweeping patios and driveways.
- PROVIDE pollen and nectar sources for bees by growing a variety of trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials with many shapes, textures, sizes, and colors. Echium, Goldenrod, Lemon Balm, Sweet Clover, and Borage are all easy to establish and are favorites of our pollinators.
- PLANT summer bulbs of dahlias, gladiolas, cannas, and callas. Once in the soil, forget about them until they sprout and bloom.
- THIN the fruit on your apricot, peaches, pears, plums, and other trees so that your harvest will produce larger fruit.
- SOW seeds for succession plantings of radishes, beets, lettuces, carrots, and beans.
- CONTINUE handpicking snails and slugs or set out bowls of beer to help with the eradication.
- LEAVE the foliage of daffodils, tulips, Dutch Iris, and hyacinth in your garden until the leaves are very dry and crispy. Don't tie them back with rubber bands and don't prune if you want to have flowers next spring.
- SET a packet of seeds on each place setting for your Mother's Day celebration.
- INCLUDE children in the gardening process by allowing them to tend to a special section of the garden. The responsibility and patience learned will last a lifetime plus the pride of growing something instills confidence and grows self-esteem. Suggestions for magical sowing include sunflowers, beans, and carrots.
- CUT stalks of the vibrant Bird of Paradise for a flower arrangement. Whether grouped with bearded iris or arranged as a solitary statement, Bird of Paradise provides a long lasting cut flower that is elegant and different.
- SOAK the seeds of Echinacea for 24 hours before planting. The National Garden Bureau has designated 2014 as the year of Echinacea, one of the top five perennials in the United States. Easy to grow, Echinacea is a magnet for hummingbirds and bumblebees with medicinal benefits as an anti-depressant and immune system booster as extra bonuses.
- TRANSFER pots of tuberous begonias to a shady area where they will bloom for months.
- CLEAN patio furniture. Freshen your outdoor look with paint, new cushions, or throw pillows.

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*Meyer lemon blossoms fill the air with the fragrance of spring.*



*Easy to care for with colorful blooms year round, anthuriums, also known as flamingo flowers, scrub the air of common VOCs.*





*Snapdragons dazzle with color amidst the gray leaves of Artemisia, also known as Dusty Miller.*



*A baby squirrel climbs the magnolia tree with calla lilies underneath.*

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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

... continued from page D17

- PHOTOGRAPH your landscape and study the photos to reveal spots that may need added attention.
- DRAPE vigorous climbing clematis on arbors, walls, fences, and trellises for beautiful blooms spring through fall.
- FRESHEN the air in your interiors with a potted anthurium. Besides sucking up harmful VOCs, houseplants have been proven to increase concentration, productivity, and boost well-being.
- BANISH insecticides from your garden to protect our pollinators and birds. The calamity of the bee colony collapse is still puzzling scientists but while researches investigate the cause of this jeopardy, we can do our part to help honeybees survive.
- RAISE the mowing height of your lawn mower and remove the bag at least twice a month allowing the cut grass to feed the roots.
- RAKE your soil to remove debris and lift the matted leaves.
- WEED, weed, weed! Any and all weeds are sapping the moisture and nutrients from your other plants. Get rid of them swiftly.
- WATCH for baby squirrels scampering on fences and trees. Their playful antics are entertaining. (As long as they aren't munching on your veggies!)



*Romantic Clematis surprises perennially with its rich, luscious dinner plate size flowers.*

- GATHER nasturtium blossoms along with mustard greens and kale to spice up your salads for peppery flavors and bright colors.

## SPRING GARDEN/NATURE EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED

- PARTY at the Mother's Day Soiree on May 10 and 11 at Annie's Garden in Richmond with over 2.5 acres of rare native varieties found nowhere else. <http://www.anniesannuals.com>.
- PICK up your free bag of potpourri at the Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 charity booth at the Moraga Faire in Rheem from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10. Meet a few of Lamorinda Weekly's Teen Scene writers.
- THANKS to all the Lamorinda Weekly readers who came to meet and chat with me at the Earth Day and Wildlife Festival. Keep on growing!

*Celebrate the givers of life this May. Hurray for moms and Mother Nature.*



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## KEEPING TREES HEALTHY

Generally speaking, trees don't need us to grow. But they need our help to stay healthy and safe. Having your trees checked by an ISA arborist on a regular basis is a wise choice. As a professional we may be able to see the dangers that lurk ahead and can solve them before they can become a bigger problem or even dangerous.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by your local ISA Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping for all your tree care needs.

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Bird of Paradise adds flair to the landscape and to floral arrangements.

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Cynthia Brian

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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



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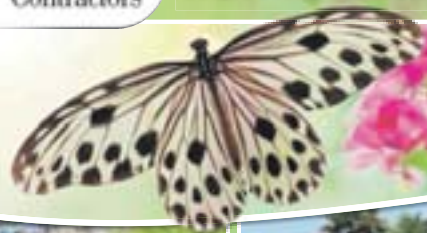


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**11 Los Conejos** Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with beautiful hardwood floors. Soaring trees, landscaped terraces and privacy. Come make this home your own!

**\$875,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**1 Westwood Court** Fantastic contemporary w/big views & privacy. This 3bd+ofc/2.5ba boasts cul-de-sac locale & living, formal dining & two family rms w/picture windows & decks capitalizing on fantastic views of the Oakland Hills.

**\$1,150,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**484 Dalewood Drive** Special home of stylish design enhancements w/gracious flr pln, fam. living & entertaining inside & out. Large windows, vaulted ceilings & kit/fam rm. Lush, mature landscaping, privacy,w/in "Downs" nghbrhd.

**\$1,935,000**

## ORINDA



**528 Tahos Road** Style+design come alive in this total renovation 5bd/4+ba of exceptional quality. Granite, stone + custom wood moldings/trims of finest materials. All rms light/bright w/lrg wndws. Grassy yd, decks, balconies.

**\$2,295,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**645 Miner Road** Inviting trad. w/separate guest apt, ideally situated at bottom of cul de sac in desirable Sleepy Hollow school district. Incredible kit. w/granite counters & central island. Priv. mstr suite. Pool & mature redwoods.

**\$2,750,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**81 Mossbridge Lane** Beautifully updated approx. 4540 sf, 6bd/5.5ba Traditional Orinda Downs gem! Form meets function in this exquisite home perched on a private lane. This is the home you have been waiting for!

**\$2,795,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**36 Candle Terrace** First time ever for sale, exquisitely crafted custom hm offering elegance of an East Coast Trad. w/California casual indr/outdr living. Apx. 4,865sf on .8ac. Main flr mstr retreat, 2 large family rms, chef's kitchen.

**\$2,825,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**2133 Donald Drive #11** Stunning totally renovated 3bd/2ba one level end unit opening to private patio. Turnkey throughout w/sparkling remodeled kitchen & beautifully updated baths. Great loc. w/in walking distance to town.

**\$479,900**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**120 Miramonte Drive** Great Miramonte 3bd/3ba townhome with updated kitchen & baths. Sought after location. Backs up to Moraga Country Club. Golf course views from living room and master bedroom.

**\$625,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**278 Birchwood Drive** Just Listed! Fabulous contemporary ranch style home w/soaring ceilings, gourmet kit, priv. mstr retreat. Gorgeous 2/3 acre knoll setting features sparkling pool, beautiful view, fenced yd w/lawn & garden.

**\$1,279,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**2 Magee Court** Gorgeous, sunny and updated! Single level 4bd/3ba Sanders Ranch. Oversized family room with vaulted ceilings opens to kitchen. Flat yard with pool, patio and lawns. Basketball area.

**\$1,575,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**945 Mountain View Drive** Cutest home on the block! Charm abounds in this exceptionally cozy 1bd/1ba full of 1940's style bungalow. Ambiance & style. Enjoy incredible curb appeal. Lwn & grdn, very priv., ideal loc. near everything!

**\$565,000**

## LAFAYETTE



Coming Soon

**533 Silverado Drive** Highly sought after Burton Valley nghbrhd. 4bd/2ba single level ranch hm on level .23ac. Spacious/priv. bcktyd, hdwd flrs, dual pane windows/slider, 2 car-attached gar. Close to schools, swim club & trails.

**\$1,110,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1245 Panorama Drive** New Happy Valley listing! Wonderful traditional home updated plus light & bright. Fabulous .70 acre gated yard that is picturesque, private and near school & trails. Great home and value!

**\$1,650,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3431 St. Mary's Road** Stunning remodeled 5 bedroom, 3 bath farmhouse with open chef's kitchen/great room, family room with fireplace, 3 car garage, level lawns and pool.

**\$1,795,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

**1277 1B Avenida Sevilla** Stunning Villa Verde, magnificent setting, views of hills, oaks. Beautifully updated upper end 2bd/2ba 1507sf unit. Single level living, high ceilings, lots of glass, den, two decks, attached garage, loft.

**\$620,000**



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